

ESTABLISHED IN 1880.

PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAYS OF EACH MONTH

J. J. CASSIDEY, - - Editor. C. P. CLARK, - - - Associate Editor.

Subscription, \$1.00 per year.

ADVERTISING RATES:

\$12.00 Per Column inch per year; Thirty inches to Page.

The Canadian Manufacturer Publishing Co., Limited.

McKinnon Building, Cor. Melinda and Jordan Sts., Toronto.

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MORE AS TO NICKEL

Interest in the agitation for an export duty on nickel and copper ores and matte is increasing daily, and bids fair to result in the imposition of the duty before the present session of the House of Commons shall have reached its end. The big Canadian company that have organized, and promise to establish Canadian nickel steel works if they are thus protected, are putting forth every effort to get the facts of the case before the country, and before the country's legislators. The American syndicate who now control the output of

Canadian nickel are opposing them by means of anonymous circular letters and representations made by various apparently independent persons, but who are in reality interested, directly or indirectly, in the Canadian Copper Company, this curious concern, whose practice it has been to go to Ottawa with love for Canada in its heart and then crack jokes with Congress on the gullibility of the Canadian government.

We are glad to see that even The Toronto Globe has at last ventured out of its shell and expended editorial ink in discussing the nickel situation. It points out very truly that at Sudbury and in antipodean New Caledonia are the only nickel deposits of market value in the world, and that every natural condition favors Canada as the basis of supply to the market. Referring to the American import duty on refined nickel, it says:—

That it is aimed at preventing refining in Canada is clear, for this is the only quarter from which competition could come. That this should long be endured can scarcely be expected. At the same time, there is a general disposition to recognize the enterprise and success with which the American company have carried out their work at Sudbury, and we think that public opinion would not support the placing of an export duty on nickel as a mere embarrassment to its operations. While that is the case there can, nevertheless, be no question what Parliament would do were a company to come to it fully equipped for the work of mining and refining nickel. Free entry for nickel or an export duty on ore and matter would be so just a cry that it could not, and should not, be resisted.

The Globe is more lenient toward the Canadian Copper Company than THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER is inclined to be. True, the United States considered the effect on Canada when it placed a tariff on refined nickel. It displayed great consideration for us—consideration lest we should possibly be able to compete with the Canadian Copper Company. should we be less considerate now? The Canadian Copper Company have paid for their plant a score of times by its profits. Even if an export duty on matte should close its doors it would be at no loss that it could not well afford. employes—the newly organized nickel-steel company will doubtless be glad to secure the services of every man of them. Stevenson Burke, President of the Canadian Copper Company, told the Ways and Means Committee of the United States Congress on Jan. 8th, 1897, that if the United States put an import duty on nickel ore or matte it means refining in Canada or elsewhere. Under those circumstances we scarcely can agree with The Globe's fears for the Canadian Copper Company's embarrassment if we were to impose an export duty on nickel matte.

The last sentences of The Globe's opinion cover the existing situation very concisely and clearly, and we must congratulate our contemporary on the ground it has taken and express our hope that it will be no idler in the struggle, but continue to give the benefit of its influence to the effort to obtain what it considers just; namely, an export duty on nickel oro and matte. Mr. S. J. Ritchie, whose pen has been particularly active in the nickel controversy, and who is, par excellence, the best authority we have on nickel, pointed out to The Globe that it was not sufficient to have the nickel import duty removed by the United States, but that we must have an export duty on Canadian matte or not a pound of nickel steel would ever be made in Canada. The tax in Canada would not injure England, because England imports none but refined nickel and has been getting it from the United States who