

Nickel and Copper Deposits of Ontario.

The Hon. A. S. Hardy, the Ontario Commissioner of Crown Lands, made this reference to the Sudbury deposits in the course of his recent speech upon the new Ontario mining regulations:—

As to nickel and copper, such progress has been made that it may not be unfair to say success is assured. The bounds of the nickel-bearing region are not known, but they embrace an area of not less than seventy miles in length by fifty miles in breadth, an area of something like two and one quarter millions of acres. The Government has parted with about 135,000 acres, and the remainder is still the property of the Crown. But the area is continually being widened. This is taken from the report of Dr. Bell, of the Dominion Geological Survey, and he does not say that the nickel-bearing ores are confined to the area he has described. Since then, and beyond the region he has described to Lake Wanapitac and down to the shores of Georgian Bay, new developments have taken place, and new discoveries have been made. It is now claimed, rightly or wrongly, that these discoveries are not less valuable than those near Sudbury. Under these circumstances we are not quite justified in supposing that the nickel ore is confined to the limits I have mentioned. Seeing this, and seeing the capital that is being invested, it becomes a question not whether we shall do as they have done in Quebec, impose a royalty on the lands already patented, but whether this royalty shall not be charged on lands yet to be sold and the revenue applied for all time to the general good.

The development of the nickel industry is mainly a question of a market. The market thus far has absorbed about 1,000 tons per year, and it was not until the discovery of the nickel mines in the penal Colony of New Caledonia that it reached that figure. Nickel has thus far been used only for ornamental purposes, which would not, of course, absorb a large quantity. But the opening of the mines at Sudbury has attracted attention to it for other and greater purposes, and the tendency to use it in this way is slowly increasing. There has been an offer made by the Schneiders, of France, to take the entire output of Sudbury—at least, of the largest mine there—for an unlimited number of years. This firm manufactures the armour-plating of the French Government, and stands in the same relation to the French Government that Whitworth and Campbell do to the British Government, or Carnegie to the American. The United States, it is said, recently made a contract for about 12,000 tons of nickel-steel, transforming their order for armour-plating into one for nickel-steel-plating, and I am told that these are the contracts that are now being fulfilled, and that the manufacturers get every dollar's worth of their nickel from Sudbury. Two of the miners are already selling in Europe the great part of their output. When we were at Sudbury with the Toronto board of trade last fall we were pointed to stores of matter representing a million to a million and a half of dollars, which had been accumulated as the result of the operations at the Copper Cliff mine. They proposed, as I understood it, to further refine it—to raise it from about 45 per cent. of copper and nickel to about 95 per cent. I apprehend also they were reserving it in view of what was then done or pending—the appropriations of the

United States Government of \$1,000,000 for the purpose of experimenting in manufacturing nickel steel for armour-plating their ships and for heavy ordnance. I have here the report of Admiral Folger and Lieutenant Buckingham, of the United States navy, who visited these mines at the instance of the United States Government, and they tell of the tonnage taken out of these mines. Supposing the output of the Copper Cliff mine to be \$1,090,000 a year; if we were in a position to impose a royalty of 3 per cent. that would give us a revenue of \$30,000. There are also the Dominion Mineral Company and Vivian Mines, and others are developing and contemplate the erection of smelters.

The indications are that there is in the nickel belt wealth to afford a revenue to the province which will ward off the bugbear of direct taxation for many years to come. Not that we would immediately begin to realize. There has been sold since confederation something like 800,000 acres of mining lands. Some of it has been practically abandoned, and much of it has been sold over and over again under tax sales, and it is not pretended that it is all valuable as mining lands. Some capitalists have simply held by paying the taxes, and others have not even paid the taxes. A great deal is held by people who scarcely know where their land is. I venture to believe that this 800,000 acres is a much smaller area than the public generally believe to have been sold. These are the figures, however, as nearly as they could be learned by reasonable search in the records of the Crown Lands Department.

Toronto Markets.

Grain and Flour—The market is firm, and millers appear to have very little bran or shorts to offer. There were a few enquiries for wheat but buyers were not so numerous as they were for the two or three preceding days. Values were nominally unchanged. Standard white and red were held at \$1.05 to \$1.06, north and west, with buyers at \$1.03 to \$1.04. Spring was nominal, with buyers at \$1.02 for 59 lbs. Midland; \$1.03 was bid for 69 lbs on the C.P.R. east, but refused. No. 2 Manitoba hard sold at \$1.16 and No. 2 northern at \$1.09. No. 3 hard was held at \$1.04. For oats there were more enquiry, but prices are no higher. A car of white sold at 47c on the Midland. Two cars mixed sold at 43c on the G.T.R. west. On spot odd cars sold at 46 to 46½c.

Car prices are: (Toronto freights) —Manitoba patents, \$6.25 to \$6.40; Manitoba strong bakers' \$5.90 to \$6.10; Ontario patents, \$5 to \$5.50; straight roller, \$1.75 to \$1.85; extra, \$1.40 to \$1.60; low grades, \$2.50 to \$4.25. Bran, \$11. Wheat—No. 2 white, \$1.12; No. 2 spring, \$1.04 to \$1.06; No. 2 red winter, \$1.12; No. 2 hard, \$1.16; No. 3 hard, \$1.03½ to \$1.04; No. 2 northern, \$1.09; No. 1 frosted, 94 to 95c; No. 2 frosted, 83 to 84c. Peas—No. 2, 75 to 76c. Barley—Feeding, 50 to 53c. Rye—80 to 81c. Corn—75 to 76c. Oats—46 to 48c.

Dried fruit—Several small lots of dried apples were sold by commission houses at 7½ to 8c, but later buyers would have paid 8c, but it is not likely they would have gone over that figure. Evaporated were slow at 12½ to 13½c.

Eggs—Demand was good and prices were firm at 12c. All offered wanted.

Produce—Quotations are: Beans, \$1.40 to \$1.70; potatoes, per bag, \$1 to \$1.05; do., on

track, 90 to 93c; hops, 1890 crop, 33 to 34c; 1889 crop, 10 to 25c; dried apples, 7½ to 8½c; evaporated do., 12 to 13½c; eggs, fresh, 11½ to 12c; sheepskins, \$1.25 to \$1.50; calveskins, 6 to 8c; hides, green, No. 1, 5 to 5½c; do., cured, 6½c; wool, 18 to 19c; chickens, 50 to 97c; turkeys, per lb., 10 to 13c; onions, per bbl., \$2 to \$2.25; maple syrup, per gal., 85 to 90c; maple sugar, 7 to 9c.

Dairy produce—There was a big supply of butter, and prices ruled very irregular to day. Sales were made at 11 to 15c and all for very fair quality. Some houses were able to clear their floors, while others carried over a considerable amount of stock. Selections sold at 14 to 15c but the general run averaged 12½c in lots of about 10 packages. Large packages, with butter sweet in quality but in poor shape, sold at 11 to 11½c. Demand dull for cheese and buyers are only taking just sufficient to keep them going. Small lots of spring makes sold at 10½ to 10¾, and factories offered small lots at 10c, delivered. Quotations are: Butter, large rolls, good to choice western, 11 to 15c; dairy tubs, 11 to 14c; common and store packed tubs, 5 to 8c. Cheese—New and late fall makes, 10½ to 11c; skins, 7 to 9c.

Fresh meats were without much change. Dressed beef sold at 4 to 6c for forequarters and 6 to 7 for hinds. Veal firmer, with choice scarce at 9½ to 10½c. Mutton easier at 7 to 9c, top being for yearlings. Spring lambs were more plentiful, and a good many sales were made by the pound at 17c; by the head sales were made at \$4 to \$6.50.

Provisions—Hog products were steady and unchanged. Long clear sold in small lots at 8 to 8½c, and there were a few sales of smoked hams at 11c for heavy, and 11½c for select weights. Quotations are: Mess pork, Canadian, \$15.00 to \$17; bacon, long clear, per lb, 7½ to 8½; lard, Canada, tubs and pails, 9½ to 9¾c; smoked meats—hams, per lb, 11 to 11½c; bellies, per lb, 14c; rolls, per lb, 8½ to 9c; backs, per lb, 10½c.

Groceries—Canned vegetables have brightened up again this week, and corn, peas and tomatoes have been moving more freely. Tomatoes are firm at \$1.50, and a 50 case lot sold to a wholesale house at \$1.45. Corn offers at \$1.10 up, with a lot of Phoenix at \$1. Peas are held at \$1.30 up. There are three or four lots of inferior peas distributed between the jobbing and commission houses here, which have given very great dissatisfaction to buyers. Purchasers should see that only good brands are given them. Sugars were steady and unchanged at \$5 to \$5.10 for no brands, \$5.10 up for branded yellows, and at 6½ to 7 for granulated. Pinguey gunpowders and Young Hysons are very scarce and wanted at 1½ to 2c advance in New York. Here there is very little demand, but the market is firm. Molasses are strongly held, and some houses are asking 1 to 3c advance.—*Empire*, June 1st.

The promoters of the proposed Canadian paint combine are meeting with difficulty in bringing about the amalgamation of the several factories. It is proposed to squeeze out most of the small manufacturers, who are vigorously opposing the combine and some of the large makers before whom the matter has been brought appear unwilling to enter into any arrangement, or when they are willing want more for their plant than the other members of the combine are willing to pay.