

SIR,—

Permit me to add a few lines of preface to the Report of Commander Folger and Lieutenant Buckingham which here follows :

The production of nickel steel and other alloys of nickel, for warlike appliances of every kind and description, has become a matter of the greatest commercial importance and that importance has been greatly enhanced within the last few days by the immense sums appropriated by the Russian, English and United States' Governments for the strengthening of their navies.

The world's supply of nickel is limited to two localities, one in the district around Sudbury, in the Province of Ontario, and the other is on the Island of New Caledonia, in the Southern Hemisphere, east of Australia, in one hundred and sixty five degrees east longitude and twenty three degrees south latitude.

At no other place and in no other country in the world has any nickel of any importance or commercial value ever been found.

As an alloy of nickel with steel now determines the value, strength and durability of steel, it also determines the strength, value and durability of a navy made of steel.

The power of a nation's navy is now determining her place and power in the commercial world.

It is a most remarkable fact that at the present time every great nation in the world desires to buy war ships, and it is still more remarkable that in no market in the world are any warships for sale.

Canada is the only country in the world which possesses both nickel and iron—what use has she made of these minerals? What use does she propose to make of them? These are very important questions. They are questions far more important than any commercial question before her Parliament or her Government. The importance of nickel and steel in a commercial way, was found out about ten years ago.

Members of Parliament have many times asked me : "Has Canada really got a supply of nickel sufficient to meet the wants of the world? Can she supply it as cheap or cheaper