

MINES AND MANUFACTURES.

OUR NICKEL WEALTH.—The advance in the price of nickel from 50 to 70 cents per pound will probably have an important effect on our Canadian industry, the development of the Sudbury district and of the whole country. This advance in price has no doubt been caused by the increased demand for nickel to be used as an alloy of steel in making armor plates, and to the appreciation of our invaluable possession which is commencing to dawn upon the capitalists of the world. The superiority of nickel-steel plates to pure steel, or to all other combinations of that metal, has been fully tried by repeated tests, and is now recognized by the British, American and general European governments.

The alloys of nickel with steel have so far received the greatest public and private attention, but the alloys of nickel with other metals are also coming into fresh and more numerous uses. Amongst these uses may be mentioned cutlery and metal cooking utensils. It was easy, therefore, in view of all these demands, to foresee the deficiency in the supply of nickel which is now threatened, and to realize that the Sudbury district of Canada would probably be called upon to fill the world-shortage which would ensue. To do this, all that is necessary is capital.

To this end, as some British papers pointed out a few months ago, the flow of money should in future be directed from the United Kingdom into Canada instead of being invested in shaky and doubtful industrial enterprises or railways in the American Republic. The stimulus thus given to our prosperity could not but result in a very considerable addition to the population throughout our magnificent territory, and in a genuine "boom" in our vast mineral and other resources. There can be little doubt that we have in our nickel mines a treasure-trove beyond the richest dreams of avarice or even the visions of buccaneers in the days of old, at a time when the Spanish main seemed to be teeming with gold-ships and all the beautiful products of Mexican or Peruvian civilization. Let but the magic wand of money wave over this favored land of hidden wealth, and the results will surpass in value and importance the greatest effects of American enterprise, American ingenuity or American advertisement.—*Toronto Empire.*