wholly from the American market which is becoming yearly of more and more importance The companies at present and which have heretofore refined copper and nickel mattes have also been refiners of copper on a large scale as well as of other metals which enables them to refine nickel cheaper than they otherwise could. The competition of the New Caledonia nickel, is an increasingly serious phase of the question and the present improvements in the methods of this foreign product makes it imperative that the domestic producers be not injuriously interfered with, if nickel mining and smelting is to survive in Canada. The New Caledonia Co. have many advantages over its Canadian competitors. Their freight rates are much lower than those of the Sudbury district, one being wholly marine the other a long inland rail road haul. Again the difference in the grade and nature of the ore the New Caledonia being a silicate of simple and easy reduction, while the Canadian is a complex sulphide more difficult and costly to mine and requiring more complicated, expensive and skillful methods of reduction and separation. The cost of producing metallic nickel from the Sudbury ore is about twice that of producing metal from the New Caledonia ore. The history of the metal industry in Canada does not show that an export duty has ever been imposed to assist in its development. The attitude of the Dominion and Provincial Governments with regard to the Pig Iron industry has been in the direction of aiding and festering it by means of a bonus. The nickel industry has not looked for financial assistance for the establishment of any branch of the business, and it is in its best interest that no restrictive legislation be enacted against it, as owing to the keen competition it would require but very little obstruction to result in the closing down of the remaining Canadian furnaces ; as evidence of this it can be pointed out that at present and for some years past four out of six Canadian furnaces have been idle.