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THE ROTHSCHILDS (?) IN SUDBURY.

Throughout the past year many rumors have been circulating concerning large mining transactions in the Sudbury nickel region. Amongst the names that have figured most prominently has been that of the Guggenheims. For some months their representatives were actively canvassing the nickel situation in Canada and were actually treating for the acquisition of properties. Apparently, however, no satisfactory terms could be arranged, and it remained (and here we must mention that the report is not yet fully confirmed) for a branch of the Rothschilds, with Dr. F. S. Pearson as their agent, to step in and acquire the large Booth-O'Brien holdings. The price to be paid is still, so far as the public is concerned, a matter of conjecture; but it almost certainly will exceed \$5,000,000. It is a fair assumption that the new owners will establish large smelting and refining plants, and that they are already assured of a market commensurate with their output. It is probable, also, that the bulk of the production will be used in industries directly or indirectly under the domination of the purchasers themselves. No doubt their own growing needs have incited them to make this huge investment. In any case, there is no reason to think that the step has not been long and carefully deliberated upon.

On the other hand, it is totally superfluous to imagine that the International Nickel Company, or any of its subsidiary organizations, will suffer from the advent of the Rothschilds. Sooner or later such an event was inevitable. International Nickel, so far as we are aware, has made no attempt to pre-empt the Sudbury nickel ore field, though quite naturally, the men at the helm have taken pains to safeguard the enormous industry of which they are the pioneers. On them has devolved the titanic task of developing a world-wide market for nickel and its alloys. Whilst they possess a practical monopoly of that market, possession has been forced upon them by circumstances. The Sudbury deposits are so extensive and so accessible as to prohibit competition from other countries. No other organization has been, therefore, in a position to supply the increasing demand for nickel, or, for that matter, systematically to foster and enlarge the market. In brief, the record of International Nickel's activities comprises the commercial history of the metal.

As with all human concerns, so with International Nickel there has been much criticism and abuse levelled at its devoted head. The fact remains, however, that the chief item harped upon is the fact that the company refines all its matte in the United States instead of in Canada. This has been so often explained that it is