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Editor

REGINALD E. HORE

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MR. GAMEY ON THE NICKEL QUESTION

In its issue of Friday, January 22, the Sudbury Mining News features an interview granted by Mr. R. R. Gamey, M.P.P., for Manitoulin, to the Toronto Telegram. The statement which appeals most to the News is the following:

"I would not allow one pound of nickel, either in the form of oxides or in the form of metal mattes, to be shipped out of this country, except to Great Britain. The British end of the Nickel Trust could supply the needs of the allies while the war lasts, and before the war ends, in fact inside of six months, Sudbury people could have a nickel refinery in operation in Ontario."

Mr. Gamey seems to be of the opinion that for some reason the Allies do not use much nickel in war time. We are under the impression that nickel is being used in considerable quantities by the Allies and friendly neutrals, while the German supply has been cut off.

Mr. Gamey says that in six months Sudbury people could have a nickel refinery in operation in Ontario. He evidently is anxious to pay a compliment to Sudbury people at the expense of Hamiltonians, for in the same interview he says:

"Nickel producing and refining is a very large business; it takes a good deal of money and a great deal of technical skill to accomplish anything. For example, a lot of Hamilton capitalists were allowed to buy properties and invest \$1,500,000; but the American company knew that the Hamilton people would never accomplish anything—they didn't have enough money or enough technical skill to accomplish anything."

Are the people of Sudbury to provide the necessary money and technical skill for Mr. Gamey's refinery? One might think so on reading the report of the interview.

What advantage would it be to the International Nickel Company to establish a refinery in Canada? We can imagine the directors saying that the company is in business to make money and that they would establish a refinery in Canada if they believed they would make more money by so doing. And apparently the directors do not think the change would be a profitable one.

But the directors have also to consider that the deposits are Canadian deposits and that Canadians expect every precaution to be taken to prevent nickel from reaching the enemy. And the directors must also consider that many Canadians believe that the refining should be done in Canada whether it costs the company more money or not. The business is profitable enough to stand some increase in cost of production. Mr. Gamey says in this connection: