

for the American navy and the American market. Geographical conditions make it more easy and convenient to manipulate the ores and matte from these mines in the United States than in England, and the same conditions, and the fact alluded to by the *Empire* that the only other large nickel territory is in New Caledonia, give Canada an opportunity to enrich herself which it would be a grievous mistake to neglect. The American tariff was framed purposely to force the establishment of works in the United States for the refining of this Canadian nickel. The vast importance of nickel in the manufacture of armor plates became apparent just at the time the McKinley tariff bill was being passed by Congress, and this discovery had a very decided influence in shaping that legislation. Up to that time, under the tariff of 1883, the American duty was fifteen cents per pound on the nickel contained in ore, matte or other crude form not ready for consumption in the arts; and upon nickel, nickel oxide and alloy of any kind in which nickel is the element of chief value; and upon manufactures composed wholly or in part of nickel, and whether partly or wholly manufactured, forty-five per cent. *ad valorem*. At that time the production of nickel in the United States did not average a hundred tons per annum, and it was to protect this industry that this heavy duty was imposed. The importation of nickel was quite inconsiderable, the domestic supply being quite sufficient to meet the demand for the manufacture of small coin, and of the arts. Under the then popular demand for low duties or no duties upon raw materials, as voiced by the Mills Bill, nickel was about to be placed on the free list, and probably it would have been so placed had it not been for the newly discovered importance of the metal above alluded to.

But with this discovery came Mr. McKinley's opportunity to establish a new and wonderfully important industry in the United States—the manufacture of nickel steel. A commission had been sent by the Government to investigate the extent and value of the Sudbury deposits, and the report of the commissioners was that the supplies of the metal which could be obtained in Canada were practically inexhaustible. The geographical position of these deposits was such that the manipulation of them could be done with as little expense in American cities as in Canada—that if the duties were removed from the ore and matte, and a high duty continued upon the refined metal, vast works would be required for refining the crude materials, giving employment to American capital on American territory, and occupation to American workmen. The result has justified the anticipations; and within a year after the passage of the McKinley Bill we observe most extensive plants in the United States employed in the manufacture of nickel steel, and the whole American navy being armored with plates which derive their great and peculiar value because of the Canadian nickel entering into their manufacture.

The American Government were acting within their rights when they did what they did to build up the nickel steel industry in their own country.

Has Canada taken any steps to profit by this large demand for nickel? Will any such steps be taken?

As soon as the great value of our Sudbury deposits was made known, and as soon as it was known that the American Government had placed nickel ore and matte on the free list, but

retaining a duty of \$200 per ton upon refined nickel, THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER demanded that a corresponding duty be laid upon the nickel contained in exports of ore and matte; and this was the first paper to make this demand. Since then several other journals have advocated doing this; but it is remarkable that such a journal as the *Empire*, which professes to be a moulder of political thought, should with the utmost studiousness abstain from giving any expression whatever upon the subject. It tells about the value of our mines, about the capital being invested in the development of them, about the benefits Canada would derive if we had extensive refining works and plants for the manufacture of nickel steel, and of the great importance it is to Britain to have a controlling influence in our great nickel reserves, but it fails to grasp or discuss the fact that Canada can never realize the maximum of benefit from this wealth until something is done which will result in something more than mining the ore; something which will give us refineries and steel works and large employment for Canadian labor. And what we say regarding the *Empire* may also be said as to about all of the so-called administration papers in the country. They may be waiting for suggestions or intimations from Ottawa, but they are certainly not exerting themselves in sounding public sentiment or testing the views of the people upon the subject.

Of course it is to be expected that the opposition papers should oppose any suggestion to make our American friends pay us something for an indispensable article, and this opposition is exemplified in the *Mail* which makes what it supposes to be a strong argument against the export duty question by denouncing the advocates of it as "sapient." It tells us that there is plenty of nickel in the world besides that in Canada; that rich deposits, estimated at hundreds of thousands of tons, have been discovered in Germany, and that under the most favorable circumstances the best we can hope to do is to compete in the American market with the metal from this source. It tells us, too, about the active work now going on in the nickel mining districts of New Caledonia, and that the prospects are that that far off island in the South Pacific Ocean will become the premier nickel district of the world. The area of this island, the *Mail* tells us, is 772,276 square miles, of which 210,000 are nickel producing, about 20,000 square miles having been either applied for or granted to various companies, and that more than 7,000 square miles are being actually worked. The value of this information can be measured by the fact that the entire area of the island of New Caledonia is only 7,722 square miles, only a hundredth part of what the *Mail* states it to be; and if there are 210,000 square miles of nickel producing lands there they must be covered at a great depth by the Pacific Ocean. The exports of nickel ore from New Caledonia in 1890 were only 5,000 tons, and if the metal contained in it amounted to as much as ten per cent., a production of 500 tons of refined nickel per year from that source would not come very formidably in competition with Canadian nickel, when our supplies to the American Government alone last year amounted to nearly a thousand tons of refined.

The question for Canada to consider is whether in this advancing age of the world's progress, and with our practically illimitable stores of nickel wealth, we shall have nickel manufacturing industries. There may be equally large deposits in other