

rival to meet it on equal terms being the Island of New Caledonia with its unlimited resources of nickel silicate, only a part of which are controlled by the French company 'Le Nickel.' " Again, on page 330 (Mineral Statistics, U. S., 1896): " At present, either one of the two great nickel regions of the world, namely, that near Sudbury, in Canada, or that upon the Island of New Caledonia, is capable of supplying all the nickel needed for the world's consumption; neither region is worked to half its capacity and neither need fear exhaustion even at an increased output for many years. It cannot be seriously maintained that these two rather small districts possess all the available nickel of the world, and we may as reasonably expect some future discoveries of resources still better than these as to apprehend that these will be exhausted or prove inadequate for the world's needs." Even stronger than these is the statement of Mr. Robt. M. Thompson, President of the Orford Copper Company, who sends me the following wire: "A Canadian export duty will close the United States market to the product of the Canadian mines, unless the mines pay the duty by lowering their prices, because the New Caledonia mines can supply the world's demands and are willing to sell us all the ore we require as low and even lower than the prices we now pay the Canadian mines. This applies as well to so much of the European consumption as is supplied by our refinery from Canadian mattes, and these two items cover all the present Canadian products. Very few appreciate how small is the consumption and how great is the difficulty of refining nickel. We established our refinery at New York because we obtained there a reagent necessary for our process, and which is a by-product of chemical manufactures not working in Canada. To ship this into Canada will make the cost prohibitory." The statements of these eminent authorities are worthy of consideration, clearly indicating as they do, the danger that threatens our nickel mining and smelting enterprises if the pernicious representations of a few company promoters should result in an export duty being placed on this mineral.

As a matter of fact the mining industries cannot yet bear the burden of creating prematurely by main force all the other industries which may become desirable hereafter. Additional duties laid upon it will only weaken it without producing the benefit intended; neither the copper mines nor the nickel mines can stand the imposition of an export duty. Let the mining industry have a fair chance to develop and strengthen itself; to gather a population of consumers around it; to give natural birth to associated and auxiliary industries. Then the situation may be different. At present the proposal of an export duty is distinctly unwise, because premature—to say nothing of all other reasons for opposing it. I beg, therefore, to submit the following motion: