

"private letters and telegrams I had repeatedly brought this "to the notice of the Secretary of State and a strong official "memorandum on the subject was sent to the War Office on "September 28th. . . . The War Office were officially told "that the state of the ammunition supply had necessitated the "issue of an order restricting expenditure to twenty rounds "per gun daily, and that a further restriction to ten rounds "would be necessary if the supply did not improve. This was "during the most desperate period of the first battle of Ypres, "when the average daily expenditures of 18-pounder ammunition had amounted to eighty-one rounds per gun."

After further remonstrance with the War Office to which little response was given, Lord French reached the conclusion stated in the following ominous paragraph:

"This amazing attitude at a most critical time compelled me to consider means by which the several members of the Government and the public also might be advised of this deplorable apathy, which if long continued, meant the **destruction of our army.**"

WAR OFFICE PLACED ORDERS.

When the War Office realized larger supplies of ammunition were necessary for successfully prosecuting the war, orders were hurriedly placed in United States and Canada.

The Ontario Government had no more to do with prohibiting the export of nickel than it had with the export of wheat. It was a matter entirely within the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. At that time there was no known process for refining nickel in Canada, nor was there a refinery in Canada for treating nickel. To have denied the export of nickel would have stopped the manufacture of munitions on this continent, and this, in the words of Lord French, would have meant "the destruction of our army."

It is a fact that from the commencement of the war until released by the British Government, the International Nickel Company disposed of every pound of nickel made from Ontario ore and finished in its refinery under an order of the British Government. During the war the British Allies were necessarily supplied with nickel; thousands of pounds went to Italy, France and Japan; not one shipment was made without the approval of the British Government through the committee on Foreign Supplies and under Dominion license.

It would be just as absurd to prohibit the export of wheat or any other staple commodity recognized as contraband of war, as to have refused in the face of the terrible consequences involved to supply nickel for munitions.