

payer, and there is scarcely room for any objection by free-traders that it would result in a higher price to Canadian consumers, because Canada has no steel industry to require it, inasmuch as our free-trade friends seem determined to allow us no chance to develop our iron mines, except upon the most unfavorable terms.

Seven years ago THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER demanded an export duty on nickel ore and nickel matte, and in many quarters our prophecy that without it Canada would never have a great nickel industry was pooh-poohed. What have the same gentlemen to say about it to-day in the face of the fact that not a pound of nickel has ever been refined in Canada?

The famous series of tests of armour-plates at Indian Head, Maryland, by the United States Government, resulted in the decision that nickel steel was the most suitable for armour-plate purposes. Just at that particular juncture Canada had a better chance than the United States to become a great producer of armor-plate. We had superior national advantages, not only in the possession of nickel, but in the possession of every other constituent of nickel steel, easy of access, and where the transportation from the smelter to the complete armor-plate would have been reduced to the minimum.

The American Government sent a commission of experts to Sudbury to report on the amount of the nickel deposit there and upon their report nickel steel plate was adopted for the armor of United States warships. The United States was thus committed to a policy which placed them under obligation to Canada for a supply of nickel. The very most stringent possible industrial enactments have been made in the United States against Canada and enforced to the utmost extent the law allowed. By means of an export duty on nickel ore and matte Canada could make most effectual retaliation which could not possibly be counteracted by an American enactment, and yet, for some inexplicable reason, no step has ever been taken to secure anything more than the original mess of pottage for our birthright. In early 1892 The Empire discussed the boom in nickel. It told of British American and French capital that was crowding into Canada to invest in nickel properties, and painted an alluring picture of the wonderful results that were to ensue. "We have," said The Empire, "practically the only nickel mines in the world—the only ones of any importance—and the future demand is assured." And after this premise it went on to request Toronto capitalists to invest in a refinery in Toronto and keep our mining interests from falling entirely into the hands of American and French speculators. Instead of asking for an export duty The Empire talked nonsense. No matter if we had a thousand nickel refineries in Canada they would never be called upon to refine a pound of nickel as long as the United States duty stood against our refined nickel and we supplied them with nickel ore and matte without restriction.

If the daily press of this country had joined issue with THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER to settle this question for the best interests of this country it would have been decided long ago and an export duty would now be operating to support the establishment of nickel refineries in Canada. Instead of that we find that they have been turning it to party advantage without the least regard for the pressing needs of the case. In December, 1892, The Toronto World demanded that the Ontario Government take action when at the same time Mr.

W. F. Maclean was a member of the great Conservative majority in the House of Commons at Ottawa and a simple resolution in that body would have given Canada an immense industry paying a million and a-half dollars yearly in wages to Canadian skilled labor. At the last session of the Commons an act was passed providing that the Governor-General-in-Council might, at any time, by proclamation, impose export duties as follows:

(a) On nickel contained in matte, or in the ore, or in any crude or partially manufactured state, and upon copper contained in any matte or ore which also contains nickel—when exported from Canada—upon such nickel, an export duty not exceeding ten cents per pound, and upon such copper an export duty not exceeding two cents per pound;

(b) On ores which contain copper, or any metal other than nickel or lead, when exported from Canada, an export duty not exceeding fifteen per cent. of the value of said ores;

(c) On lead ores, and on lead and silver ores, when exported from Canada to a country which imposes an import duty on lead in bars or in the form of pig lead in excess of the import duty on lead contained in lead ores or in lead and silver ores—an export duty on the lead contained in the ores so exported from Canada, to an amount per pound equivalent to such excess.

It is encouraging to read The World's comment on the nickel situation on January 6th last, when it said:—

The imposition of an export duty on our matte would have the effect of bringing into existence at once one or more refineries for the treatment of the Sudbury ores. Canada's position in regard to nickel is simply impregnable. We have the industry wholly within our control. The United States nickel refineries admit this fact. There is no excuse for delay on the part of the Government. An export duty should be proclaimed within ten days.

The World went even farther than this and declared the urgency of an export duty on lead, silver and other ores. On January 3rd The Globe talked nickel. It described the evidence before the Committee of Ways and Means at Washington of Robert M. Thompson, manager of the nickel and copper refinery at Constable Hook, New Jersey, where the Canada Copper Company send the product of their Sudbury mines to be refined. We quote from The Globe:—

Mr. Thompson denied that the United States demand for nickel could be supplied from any known deposit in the United States. He had employed an expert to visit and examine every reputed nickel deposit of which he ever heard, and the result was invariably disappointing. . . . The ore was difficult to treat, the cost of extraction being prohibitory. The Canadian ore, Mr. Thompson said, contained so much copper that it was as correct to call it a copper ore as a nickel ore. Each of the metals had its value, and this made the Canadian ores cheaper than the United States ores referred to.

Mr. Thompson laid a brochure before the committee. Some of its statements were:—Matte at Sudbury costs \$25 per ton; about \$28,000 monthly is expended in Canada; at Thompson's works and at Wharton's works in Philadelphia, and for freight, \$100,000 a month is expended in the United States; a tariff on raw material and matte from Canada to the United States would stop the refineries in the United States.

Judge Burke also made a statement to the same committee. Inasmuch as he is president of the Canada Copper Company, his statements should carry weight. He said:—

Of course the putting of a duty upon either nickel ore or nickel matte would result necessarily in the refining of this product in Canada, or in Great Britain or in Germany. For