

Made Exhaustive Report Of the Nickel Industry And Put an End to Gossip

THE report of the Royal Nickel Commission appointed by the Ontario Government in September, 1915, has been completed. On all points the report fulfils the expectations of Hon. G. H. Ferguson, Minister of Lands, Forests, and Mines, that it would be the last word on the metallurgy of nickel refining in Ontario. The report points out that two questions have been uppermost in numerous discussions that have taken place concerning the nickel industry during the last twenty-five years. The first, can nickel be economically refined in Ontario; and, second, are nickel deposits of Ontario of such a character that this Province can compete successfully as a nickel producer with any other country?

To both these questions the Commission answers yes. "The nickel ore deposits of Ontario are much more extensive and offer better facilities for the production of nickel at a low cost than do those of any other country," reads the report. "Any of the processes now in use for refining nickel could be successfully worked in Ontario, and conditions and facilities are as good here as in any other part of Canada. The most satisfactory method of refining in Ontario will be electrolytic. The refining of nickel in Ontario will not only benefit the industry locally but promote the chemical and metallurgical industries and lead to their growth. The methods employed by the two large operating companies in Ontario are modern and efficient. Both have passed the experimental stage without receiving any Government assistance and have earned the success which they have achieved."

On the important question of mining taxation the report is most explicit. After an investigation into the methods of taxation in practice in other countries where mining operations are carried on extensively the commission finds that "the present system of mining taxation in Ontario is just and equitable and in the public interest, and is the best system for this Province. Any question of change is rather one of rate than of principle." "The tax in Ontario is based upon the net profits of the mine, and this the Commission recommended should not be higher than 5 per cent. Although the report makes certain recommendations the bill to carry these recommendations into effect at the time of writing was not introduced to the House. It is understood, however, that the Government will probably accept the recommendations of the Commission which, as has been pointed out, approves of the present basis of taxation on net profits, but thinks that the rate should be higher and on a progressive scale, the rate of tax increasing as the profits grow. If the recommendations of the Commission are entirely adopted by the Government it will mean that Ontario will secure a revenue from this source on the basis of last year's operations of about \$2,000,000."

This is what was anticipated by the Minister when the Commission was appointed, but rather than deal with the question in a piecemeal fashion time has been taken to consider the question from every angle and reach a decision that will be permanent and satisfying.

The report is a lengthy document of some five hundred pages with an appendix. It is perhaps the most exhaustive study on the nickel industry that has yet been made, and will prove an important contribution to the literature on the subject. As a result of the enterprise of Mr. Ferguson two refining plants in Ontario have already been assured, one by the International Nickel Company at Port Colborne, another by the British America Nickel Company at Sudbury. To facilitate the operation of these plants an extensive development of electrical energy will be required, and as a result of having these industries in our midst, apart from patriotic advantages, important industries of a minor character will spring up from time to time requiring a large investment of capital and the employment of many hundreds of hands.

The public is not interested in the technical aspect of the report, but it is only fair to the Commission to say that they have brought to the discharge of their duties a devotion to the general welfare of the Province that is as worthy in its achievement as the importance of the whole subject warranted.

Quaint Theatre Notice.

The quaintest notice ever issued by the management of a theatre for the benefit of the audience is the one which is to be seen in the German town of Brunswick. It reads: "For the benefit of the public, it is ordered that the front row of the pit shall lie down, the second shall kneel, the third shall sit, and the fourth shall stand. In this way everyone will be able to see." Let it be added that the notice was posted up in the Brunswick Theatre in 1734, and that it is now one of the curiosities of the museum.

Ladies, Try This.

Two ladies on the other side of the border were holding a stairhead confab one morning on the troubles of life, and husbands in particular. "I dinna wonder at some pair wives having to help themselves out of their husbands' trouser-pockets," remarked the one. "I canna say I like them underhand ways myself," responded the second matron. "I jist turn ma man's breeches dooside up and help mase' off the carpet."—Tit-Bits.

Victory for the Allies Will Come This Summer, Says Great Belgian Poet

"PEACE will come this year, but it will come through a victory of the Allies." This is the opinion that Maurice Maeterlinck gave to an interviewer recently in the study of his villa Les Abellies, on the hills overlooking Nice.

"Oh, yes," he said. "This is the year of peace. It is bound to come after the big battles now being prepared. The Germans will be beaten and will have to give in."

"Then you don't believe in peace by negotiation?" was asked.

"No," he said. "It is impossible. The Germans must be beaten to their knees. The militarism must be crushed. Then there can be real peace, permanent peace. When Germany has been forced by armed strength to acknowledge herself wrong, then only negotiations between the two sides can take place."

"That is the fundamental condition of peace. Germany must first acknowledge herself wrong; then starting from that basis peace can be discussed, reparation exacted, guarantees established. Germany at present is a wild beast and must be tamed as the first step toward arriving at a permanent basis for the future."

"Do you think President Wilson has done anything for peace?" asked the interviewer.

"No," he responded. "On the contrary, he has shown the futility of negotiation at the present time. The Allies' reply to Wilson's note and the



MAURICE MAETERLINCK

German reply to Wilson's speech, put side by side, show how far apart the opponents are, for the German reply breathes in every word pride of arms, brutal pride of victory and power.

"It is evident that there can be no peace, no negotiations for peace, until that spirit is broken. The great struggle will come this year. It is being prepared for now by both sides, and as a result of that struggle peace will come and Allied victory."

"Germany has shown that she is still animated by the pride and vain-glory of the Hohenzollerns. What does she say of Belgium. The brief reference to Belgium means only German suzerainty. There can be no other reading. Better utter annihilation, better that Belgium and the Belgian people be lost to the world forever than made subjects of German tyranny, as Alsace-Lorraine has been enslaved by Germany for nearly half a century."

"And what does she say of Serbia? What of the countries at war? What of Little Montenegro? Not a word. Only slavery for Belgium and for all neutrals a threat of the terror of slavery. Does one need more than that to understand Germany's wild haste? Now she has threatened with murder and sudden death all neutrals who venture on the seas."

"There can be no peace without liberty for all nations, reparation for all misdeeds and guarantees of a chastened Germany. Belgium and Serbia must be restored. There must be a reparation to Belgium for all she has suffered."

"Serbia must be enlarged in accordance with her legitimate ambitions and at the expense of those who tried to destroy her. Subject peoples must be freed. There must be a new Poland and new nations of all the peoples now subject to Germany who do not want German rule."

"There must be a new Bohemia. One sees a separate kingdom of Hungary and beside it new nations of peoples now subject to German domination."

"It is the end of the Hohenzollerns," he concluded. "One way or another the Hohenzollern dynasty must come to an end and the German peoples, like all others, be released from the tyranny of a race thirsty for blood."

His eyes burned with a blazing light as he concluded: "The beast is in its death struggle now. The hands of justice and freedom are at its throat. A few last convulsive efforts and the end will come!"

His own hands reached out, the fingers working convulsively, as if he himself would throttle the beast and avenge his country.

To Identify Cattle.

To mark cattle for identification an inventor has patented stud buttons that can be clamped through their ears.

WAR SUPERSTITIONS.

Story That Kitchener is Alive Cannot Be Killed.

The theory that we live in an exceptionally rational age is daily discounted by the eagerness of large numbers of people to accept popular superstitions. In fact, we are inclined to think it a very credulous era. To be sure, the old belief that the devil goes walking about the earth playing practical jokes, and making compacts with men for their souls, no longer prevails to the extent that it did five hundred years ago; but many good people still cling to the belief that a heavenly host did intervene at the Battle of the Marne. Some years after Joan of Arc was burned at Rouen, a young woman made her appearance in another part of France and claimed to be the maid of Orleans, alleging that the story of her incineration was all a fabrication. Not only were large numbers of people convinced of the truth of her story, but the governor of the particular province where she told her tale gave her a pension out of the public funds. We smile at this as evidence of the credulity of medieval France, and the inconvenience the people of that day suffered from the lack of newspapers and other means of communication. Yet the acceptance of this fable is not more curious than the legend which has sprung up in many parts of the British Isles that Lord Kitchener is still alive, and the not less fantastic story that Sir Hector Macdonald is still alive, and is in fact General Brusiloff of the Russian forces. The late Lord Kitchener had not been dead for a fortnight before the story was afloat that he had not been drowned at all, but was in Germany. Friendly souls said he was a prisoner, others that he was fighting in the German armies. Imagine the German Government concealing from their own people and from the world at large that they had Kitchener!

Yet the logic of facts has never had any influence over credulous minds, and we have it on the authority of such an excellent periodical as To-day that the legend is not abating, but spreading, though now the mythologists insist that it is Kitchener in Russia rather than Germany. The story has gained even wider acceptance in France than in Great Britain. According to To-day, the majority of Frenchmen believe that Kitchener actually reached Russia, the country for which he was bound when he left London, and is living anonymously there for some occult purpose. The fact that the body of his private secretary was recovered near Kirkwall a few days after the Hampshire was seen to disappear by watchers on shore, does not shake the adherents of this latest and most curious of myths. They argue that, although his staff may have been on the Hampshire, he was not necessarily there himself; that he perhaps proceeded to Russia alone. The theory is advanced that he may have crossed the Atlantic to Canada, and thence by Victoria to Vladivostok. At any rate they are determined, willy nilly, that Kitchener is alive. The myth seems to flourish among those numerous individuals whose minds eagerly turn toward conspiracy, and who are quite certain that what they see in print is false. Perhaps some future student of historical mysteries, like the late Andrew Lang, will, long after the war is over, make this latest superstition the subject of an essay.

The Fortress of Ham.

It was in the old fortress at Ham that France's last Emperor was a prisoner for many years. After Napoleon's downfall at Waterloo a Bonaparte was as popular with the succeeding French kings as Jim the Penman with banks presidents. So Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, heir to the Little Corporal's dynasty, was first banished and then shut up at Ham. He escaped from that place after fixing up a dummy in his bed to fool the attendants and putting on the clothes of a carpenter. He walked through the prison gates with a piece of timber on his shoulder, went to Paris, was elected president, made himself emperor, and was snuffed out at Sedan. It was at Ham from which the routed Germans fled recently and whose fathers were his own conquerors that Napoleon III. found himself another man of destiny. And for a couple of decades it seemed as if he were.

"Sandy" Provides for His Widow.

Andy Donaldson, a well-known character of Glasgow, lay on his death-bed. "I canna' leave ye thus, Nancy," the old Scotsman wailed. "Ye're ower auld to work, an' ye couldna' live in the workhouse. Gin I dee, ye maun marry anither man, wha'll keep ye in comfort in yer auld age."

"Nay, nay, Andy," answered the good spouse; "I couldna' marry anither man, fer whit wull I dae wi' twa husbands in heaven?" Andy pondered over this, but suddenly his face brightened. "I ha'e it, Nancy!" he cried. "Ye ken auld John Clemmens? He's a kind man, but he's no' a member o' the kirk. He likes ye, Nancy, an' gin ye'll marry him, 'twill be a' the same in heaven. John's no' a Christian, an' he's no' likely to get there."—Liver-pool Post.

The Busy Inventor.

Nothing new under the sun? Look at this list, chosen at random from a recent issue of Popular Science Monthly, and decide for yourself: Eye-glasses for drivers. A "shot-gun" camera. The automobile torpedo. A mouse trap for burglars. The acetylene life-preserver. Sling tennis. Dancing radiator doll. Automatic hair-cutter. The gasoline caddy. An electric hair comb. A buzz-saw razor. A Chinese typewriter. Sun glasses for baseball muffers.

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via CANADIAN NORTHERN

Russian workmen appealed to those in Germany and Austria to throw off the yoke of autocracy.

Sir Adam Beck charged that the water illegally taken from the Niagara River by the Ontario Power Co. had brought the company a revenue of \$360,000.

Major-General F. L. Lessard, Inspector-General for Eastern Canada, is to take the military direction of the recruiting in Quebec Province for Lieutenant-Col. Hon. P. E. Blondin's battalion.

A big fleet of United States warships of all sizes left Brooklyn navy yards on Friday under sealed orders.

Miss Mary Doyle, of Hamilton, ninety-one years of age, was fatally burned while attempting to light a gas stove.

Application will be made to the legislature to extend the Truancy Act of Ontario so that children of six and over will come under the compulsory education scheme. Heretofore it has applied only to children between the ages of 8 and 14.

Great Britain's revenue in the past year showed great increases.

Toronto's customs returns for the fiscal year ended March 31 broke all records.

Austrian troops expelled from positions by the Russians on the latter's West front.

Sir Robert Borden has declined to accept Hon. Mr. Blondin's resignation, asking him to remain in the Government, and commending his decision to raise a battalion for overseas service.

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