

FACTS ABOUT NICKEL.

To understand the situation aright go back to the days of the Liberal Government, which Hartley Dewart so ardently supported.

Prior to 1905 the Liberals gave away to two companies, approximately 10,000 acres of mining lands in fee simple,—the patent giving the companies absolute possession of the property free of any conditions as to assessment work or development whatsoever. Since 1905 the same companies have secured by direct purchase from outside individuals under the Mining Law, some 1,050 acres of nickel land. All the important discoveries of nickel have been made on lands conveyed by the Liberal Government prior to 1905.

On the outbreak of the war, with the co-operation of the International Nickel Company, steps were taken by the Dominion Government through the British Admiralty, to put into operation a system of supervision and checking, so that all shipments of nickel matte from Canada to refineries in United States and Wales were under absolute control.

Was this system of supervision and prevention effective?

Let us see! We have the testimony of no less a personage than the Colonial Secretary, The Right Honorable Bonar Law.

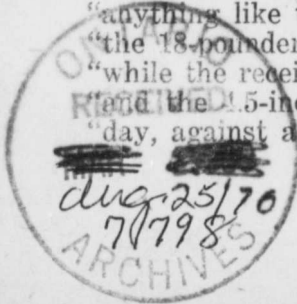
On July 18, 1916, the Colonial Secretary wired Sir Robert Borden as follows:—

“His Majesty’s Government are fully aware of the arrangements made for supervising the destination of nickel refined from nickel ore to the United States and are satisfied with the precautions taken to prevent such nickel from reaching the enemy.”

WHY NICKEL WAS EXPORTED.

Go back for a moment to consider why it was necessary to allow the export of nickel!

In his book “1914” Field Marshal Lord French states that he had strongly advocated during his term of office as Chief of the Imperial General Staff for a supply of high explosive shells, but he got only lukewarm support. As early as September, 1914, the British army in France was subjected to heavy bombardments from German 8-inch howitzers, to which they were quite unable to reply. Lord French says: “At the same time the daily expenditure of artillery and munitions became far in excess of the receipts from home, and we were unable to maintain the stocks on the lines of communication up to anything like the proper war establishment. For example, the 18-pounders fired an average of fourteen rounds a day, while the receipts were barely seven. The 60-pounder guns fired the 15-inch howitzers fired more than forty rounds a day, against a supply of eight or nine rounds at most. In



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