

THE NICKEL QUESTION.

Shall Nickel Matte be subjected to an Export Duty?

HISTORY OF THE NICKEL INDUSTRY.

The almost accidental discovery of ore bearing copper and nickel near Sudbury, Ont., during the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway in that section of the country in 1881 and 1882, has led to the development of a locally important industry; the life of which is seriously threatened by restrictive legislation. The development of the first mine, namely, the Copper Cliff, situated near Sudbury, Ont., was slow and uncertain in its progress, and it was not until 1888 that the first blast furnace was put in operation. In 1889 the industry was further developed by the working of the Dominion Mineral Co. at Blezzard (one furnace), and the H. H. Vivian Co. at Murray Mine, (two furnaces), and later one furnace being operated by the Trill Mining Co., in the Township of Trill. These companies operated for the period of about three years. Since 1895 The Canadian Copper Co. has alone continued in the field, the other three companies having withdrawn, at least for a time, from active operation. During the above time The Canadian Copper Co. more than once ceased to produce matte in order to work off their stocks on hand. One of the main reasons why this Canadian industry has lived at all is because the United States Congress has permitted the importation of matte free of duty. The competitor against which the Canadian mines and smelters are struggling is the Le Nickel Co., of New Caledonia,