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The Nickel Question

A letter written by Judge Barron, Stratford, Ontario, and recently published in the Toronto Globe, on the subject of the export of nickel from Canada, is attracting wide notice. That Canada is particularly favored in the possession of the valuable metal has been generally known. It is the bearing of this fact upon the war that Judge Barron has brought prominently to public attention. The only great deposits of nickel known to the world are those of Sudbury, in Ontario, and New Caledonia, a French island in the Pacific.

Nickel has revolutionized the armor plating of ships. In the early days of ironclads the armor of a ship was composed of wrought-iron plates. Later a combination of iron and steel was used. Then improvements were made in the quality of these metals, which largely increased their resisting powers. In 1895, nickel and steel alloyed were employed instead of ordinary steel. A nickel-steel plate of eight inches, under the process of that day, became equal in its resisting power to the old eighteen inch wrought-iron plate. Then the Krupp, the great German manufacturers of war materials, improved the system of hardening so that in 1900 six inches of Krupp nickel-steel had a resisting power equal to nine inches of the nickel-steel previous use. In 1908 further improvements took place, under which a four-inch plate had greater resisting power than the earlier plates of much greater thickness. As to what Canada is doing and what she can do with her nickel Judge Barron says:

France and Canada own the only two nickel deposits in the world which pay to work, the former nation owning the Caledonia mines, and Canada the Sudbury mines. It is needless to say that France now will not permit Germany to get an ounce of nickel from Caledonia. Why should not Canada, as part of the British Empire, in like manner deprive Germany of the Sudbury nickel, and thus help old England in maintaining her supremacy over the common enemy? Now, how is this to be done? The answer is: Let Canada do that which, by statute, in 1896, she declared her right to do and her readiness to do, by proclamation, viz.: put an export duty on nickel, so as to compel its refinement in Canada by the International Nickel Company, who practically control Canada's nickel mines, and whose net profits from our raw material for the year ending March 31, 1914, were \$4,792,664.75, whereby they paid to their stockholders a dividend of six per cent. on their preferred stock, and ten per cent. on the common stock. As matters stand to-day our raw material goes to Bethlehem, N.J., and if the Quebec arsenal wants an ounce of nickel it must go there for it. Canada, of course, cannot control the sale of the refined article from the refineries of the United States, and thus Germany gets our nickel from them to build their ships to sink our Cressays and Aboukirs and Hogues, and with the fearful loss of 1,500 lives, in the twinkling of an eye, and we never raise a finger to prevent it. I do not maintain that Great Britain gets no nickel from the same source. She probably does, but it is right that she should, and not right that Germany should. Nor do I overlook the fact that England gets nickel from the Victoria mines (owned by Mr. Monro, M.P.), in the Sudbury district, but the export from that mine is about one-sixth of the whole quantity exported. Yet, whatever England gets, it is right that she should get it, and wholly and absolutely wrong that Germany should get it.

The idea of placing an export duty on nickel is by no means new. Many years ago, Mr. Peter Imrie, a Scotch banker and able writer, whose affairs brought him for a short time to Canada, contributed to the Halifax Chronicle a series of articles on Canadian affairs, in which he emphasized Canada's riches in nickel, and treated the deposits as a source from which a large revenue might be derived in the form of export duties. In more recent years an export duty has been advocated as a means of compelling the refining of the nickel in Canada. Against these proposals the usual argument was that, while Canada has valuable deposits of the mineral, it by no means had a monopoly, and that any such interference as was proposed would cripple and perhaps destroy the Canadian industry, and turn over the whole business to the New Caledonian mines. If these were good arguments on the purely commercial side of the subject, they would not apply now when a state of war prevails, in which the producers of nickel—France and Canada—are united and one of the chief consumers of nickel—Germany—is the common enemy. Restrictions upon the export of articles which could be used by the enemy have already been found necessary by Great Britain. It would seem to be entirely reasonable that in the case of nickel there should be a prohibition of the export to Germany, but to any country outside the British Empire. Canada, through the British Government, and France, should co-operate in making good use of the nickel deposits of Sudbury and New Caledonia. A refusal to allow the exportation to neutral countries may seem to be a severe step, especially in the case of the United States. But the prohibition would seem to be almost necessary. It would be difficult to satisfactorily guarantee that nickel sent to that country would not, in one form or another, find its way into the hands of the enemy. Certainly no ordinary business guarantee would be sufficient. The guarantee of the United States Government should be required.

Judge Barron makes out a good case for such co-operation between France and Canada, as would prevent the nickel of Sudbury and New Caledonia from finding its way, in any form, into the hands of the enemy.

Socialists and the War

This war, if it does nothing else, will at least knock a lot of theories and preconceived notions into the proverbial cocked hat. For years we have been told that big armaments meant peace; that the bankers of the world could and would prevent an outbreak of hostilities; that the socialists and laborers would refuse to fight one another; and a score of other equally fallacious arguments which have gone by the board.

One of the most interesting developments in connection with the titanic struggle has to do with the action of the socialists. Prior to the war, Germany was reeking with socialism, the Social Democrat party having a very large representation in the Reichstag, and had even elected a representative from Potsdam, the home of the Kaiser. Their prognostications in regard to war and peace were taken in good faith. It was universally believed that in the event of a great war, the Social Democrats of Germany would refuse to fight and stay the hand of the German war lords. In a measure, the same was true of the French socialists, and to a certain extent of the English Labor Party. The German socialists excuse their action in the conflict by saying that the war is not one of aggression, but one of defence, being hoodwinked by the Kaiser into the belief that the Russians had attacked Germany. When the real truth of the origin and history of the war is made known, and the power of the "Mailed First," which has lain so heavily on Germany, is weakened, the German socialists may rise in revolt and assert some of the claims and pretensions which they have preached for many years. One leading authority makes the following prediction:

The experts of the German General Staff regard the common soldier as "fodder for the enemies' cannon," as the phrase goes. This has been clear enough in all the battles of this campaign, and the German troops themselves must fully realize it by this time. I predict that the survivors will be bloodthirsty revolutionists when they reach home again; and many of us who know the latent strength of the German Socialist movement will not be surprised if the Kaiser and his principal advisers are hanged on the lampposts of Unter den Linden at the end of the campaign.

Commenting on the above report, the New York

Analyst says:—"But if the chief Socialist bodies of the world are now actually and physically at war with each other, taking sides with their nations, why, when a militant and efficient peace is declared, should they not again transgress the rule against arming and resort to insurrection? It is human to make war, it is human to revolt, and Socialists are human beings." Certainly one of the most interesting phenomena in connection with the whole struggle will be the place and power of the socialists after the present struggle is over. The war has provided many surprises, and it is only reasonable to expect that the socialists will provide another, and perhaps the greatest surprise of all.

More Densely Populated Than Belgium

It is being widely stated—as it was recently in our own columns—that Belgium is, next to Egypt proper, the most densely populated country in the world. Belgium has 653 people to the square mile, against 372 in the United Kingdom, 311 in Germany, 246 in Austria, 151 in France, and 55 in Russia. Europe. These figures serve to illustrate in a very striking manner the densely populated character of the little Kingdom which has been so ruthlessly destroyed by the Germans. As applied to countries of considerable population, the statement concerning the dense population of Belgium is correct. But there is another little country in which the density of population is greater than in Belgium. The island of Barbadoes, one of the British West India group, is nearly twice as thickly populated as Belgium. Barbadoes, according to the census of 1901, had a population of 196,000, or 1,200 to the square mile, against Belgium's 652. Probably up to date figures would show a considerable increase of the Barbadoes figures here given. The island is one of the most prosperous of the West Indian group. Practically all the land is cultivated, the chief products being sugar, molasses and rum as a product of sugar. The population, as in other West Indian islands, is almost wholly composed of negroes. Liberal provision has been made for education. The Barbadian is, in point of intelligence, above the average of the colored folk of the West Indian islands. The spirit of local patriotism is strong. The Barbadian is proud of being a Barbadian, and particularly proud of the fact that, while some of the islands have at times been under other flags, Barbadoes has from its earliest days been unquestionably British. This devotion to the island home, while it speaks well for the character of the Barbadians, is not without its disadvantages. While the island is over-populated, the Barbadians are as a rule unwilling to live anywhere but in Barbadoes, and, consequently, emigration movements find no favor. Several years ago, a movement was started to send a large number of the island's surplus population to Canada. At the first view the movement seemed a good one. Fortunately, wiser counsels prevailed, and the movement was abandoned. The West Indian negro can thrive in a tropical climate, but would find the severe climate of Canada entirely unsuitable to him.

The Calgary oil brokers have decided to hold a series of dances this winter to enliven the situation. Now, if our Black Fox promoters would only get up a series of tango teas, it would improve matters in the East.

It's a long way to Tipperary! If you don't believe it, as the German prisoners who have been sent there what they think of the distance.

The New York Journal of Commerce in an editorial on the "Seizure of the Brindilla," says: "The seizure of the Standard Oil Company's tank steamer by a British naval vessel, and her capture by an auxiliary cruiser to Halifax to be passed by a prize court, is nothing to get excited over, and it may result in a better understanding with Great Britain as to her course with reference to neutral vessels."

While nothing spectacular was reported from the front on Trafalgar Day, it should not be forgotten that the British naval guns played an important part in holding back the Germans' advance to the sea. What those Jack Tars are unable to do with their Long Toms is not worth mentioning.

General Alderson in command of the Canadian Contingent has announced that the "Dry Canteen" will be abolished, and that our Tommy Atkins will be allowed a "wee bit drapple." This places the Canadians on an equality with the British soldiers.

In this matter, it is somewhat significant that the present war has resulted in a great temperance wave sweeping over Russia, France and Great Britain. It is the drunken German soldiers who are mostly blamed for the terrible atrocities practiced on the Belgians.

TOMMY ATKINS IS CLEAN.

Estimates of the British soldiers at the front vary with the side of the Rhine where they are held. Thus M. Berthoulet, editor of *Liberte*, writes: "Their faces are always shaved, their uniforms brushed, their horses groomed and the harness polished as if at Aldershot. The English troops fight like cats, but dress and wash better." Berlin has a very different opinion of Sir John French's men. It is thus expressed by one critic: "English soldiers take so long to eat their marmalade and brush their teeth that they have no time for fighting."

Tommy Atkins will be surprised to learn that marmalade is on his menu regularly. The man must be confused with the officer. But both friendly and hostile critics seem to agree that the British soldier is fairly clean, and as cleanliness is next to godliness, the devout Kaiser ought to have a better opinion of Atkins.—New York Sun.

THE NATIONAL TEST.

The words of the late President Garfield are worthy of remembrance in these days of crisis: "A nation is not worthy to be saved if, in the hour of its fate, it will not gather up all its powers of manhood and life and go down into the conflict, however bloody and doubtful, resolved on measureless ruin or complete success."—Victoria Colonist.

"A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN"

German objections to coming to close quarters with the Turks are probably due to uncertainty as to the whereabouts of Jack Johnson.—Kansasburgh Illuminator.

Italy having proven false to the Triple Alliance, the Germans and Austrians probably agree that Napoleon was right when he said: "Beyond the Alps lies Italy."—Southern Lumberman.

Statistics show that there are 400,000 more women in Paris at present than men. Most remind American visitors of our mountain summer resorts.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

"Here's a fellow patents a contrivance to keep girls from falling out of hammocks."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Now that a Philadelphia textile mill has received an order for a million sweaters to be used by the British army, there seems some possibility of utilizing the bumper crop of war yarns in that country.

A pompous manufacturer of machinery was showing a stranger over his factory. "Fine piece of work, isn't it?" he said, when they were looking at a very ingenious machine. "Yes," said the visitor, "but you cannot hold a candle to the goods we are turning out." "Indeed!" said the chagrined manufacturer. "And what is your line?" "Gunpowder," was the reply.—Exchange.

A pretty, rosy-cheeked country girl entered a large shop in Aberdeen the other day. It was sales day, and the shop was more crowded than usual. She had wandered about from floor to floor, a little bewildered at the size of the establishment—the largest she had ever seen. Seeing her, a shop-walker approached, and said—"Is there anybody waiting on you?" "Yes, sir," said the girl, blushing to the roots of her flaxen hair; "he's at the door, but he winna come in."—Glasgow Herald.

Patsy had bought a gun and had invited old Mickey Mingue to accompany him to the moors for a bit of a pastime. Suddenly a fine woodcock flew up out of the heather and up came the firearm to Patsy's shoulder for the fatal shot. In an instant Mickey grasped him by the arm and shouted excitedly: "For hivin's sake, Patsy, don't fire, sure ye have forgotten to load the gun." "That's as may be," replied Patsy, he proceeded to take aim, "but fire I must, for the bird won't wait!"

One of the coaches at Yale tells of an old countryman and his wife who, on a visit to New Haven, were interested witnesses of certain manoeuvres of the football team.

The old gentleman walked slowly round one stalwart player, looking him over as he might have done a horse he was about to purchase. Then: "Sarrah!" he exclaimed. "What is it, Henry?" "He's high on six feet, ain't he?" "Every inch of it." "Weighs about one hundred and ninety-odd, eh?" "I reckon." "Well, football sure does develop 'em most powerful." "He's a fine young man," commented Sarah. "Man!" exclaimed Henry. "He ain't no man! Professor Hunter, who never lied in his life, has just told me that that young person is in his fourth year!"

We've shut the gates by Dover Straits, And North, where the tides run free, Cheek by jowl, our watchdogs prow, Grey hulks in a greyer sea.

And the prayer that England prays to-night—O Lord of our destiny!—As the foam of our plunging prow is white; We have stood for peace, and we are for right. God give us victory!

Now slack, now strung, from the main mast flung, The flag throbs fast in the breeze; Strained o'er the foam, like the hearts at home That beat for their sons on the seas. For mothers and wives are praying to-night—O Lord of our destiny!—But we've no time, for our lips are tight. Our fists are clenched and we're stripped to fight. God give us victory!

The west winds blow in the face of the foe—Old Drake is beating his drum—They drank to 'The Day' for 'The Hour' we pray The day and the hour have come! The sea-strawn Empire prays to-night—O Lord of our destiny!—Thou didst give the seas into Britain's might, For the freedom of Thy seas we smite, God give us victory! —James Bernard Fagan, in The London Telegraph.

WHAT IS BRAVERY?

"Bravery" is a very general term. It is purely a matter of the heart. It is his heart that determines how a soldier will conduct himself in battle. The soldier has no more responsibility in the matter of his bravery than in the matter of his height or his complexion.

"In battle the heart beats, as a rule, diminish. They diminish 12 degrees. A good, strong, solid man has a heart running 72 to the minute. In battle it falls to 60. That is not bad. It leaves the man pretty near all his mental and physical powers intact. So he makes a good soldier."

"But there are many sluggish-hearted men. They seem strong enough, stalwart enough, but their hearts run at the best of times only 60 or so a minute. Subtract 12 in battle. Result, 48. And pallor and weakness follow—pallor and weakness, I might say, of mind no less than of body. It is not surprising if this soldier runs away."

"There's another class, a class increasing in these stressful modern times—namely, the nervous class. The heart of the nervous class in time of danger is the worst of all. It goes speeding up, up, up—it actually reaches 120 beats. Its owner can then do nothing. He can't fight, he can't advance, he can't retreat. He sinks down on the ground; he shakes and cowers. A pitiable spectacle. But he can't help it any more than he could help an attack of scarlet fever."

"Honor the good soldier," ended the surgeon-general, "but pity the poor one, for it's his heart, it's not himself, that is to blame."—Chicago Herald.

"KULTUR'S" PROGRESS IN BELGIUM.

The mayors of Koen, Hoven, Sichen, Bolre and Sussen have been taken prisoners because the money demanded under the levy was not forthcoming.—Liege dispatch.

Of course it may be a sign of lack of "Kultur" on our part, but some way we Americans cannot help feeling that this business of German levies upon the helpless little cities and towns of Belgium smacks mightily of the days of Genghis Khan.—New York Herald.

ADMIT NEWFOUNDLAND.

The fiftieth anniversary of the participation of Newfoundland delegates in the Quebec conference would be a good occasion for the resumption of negotiations. The war has brought the British possessions closer together and emphasized the value of co-operation.—Vancouver News-Advertiser.

GET ON THE LAND MOVEMENT.

From all over Canada reports come in to the effect that strenuous efforts are to be made to crop as much land as possible next year. Citizens committees of Saskatoon and Edmonton have even taken steps toward getting the unemployed on the land. It is not proposed to tackle the unemployment problem by finding jobs with farmers, but by the more scientific method of augmenting the farming community from the ranks of the unemployed. There can be no doubt whatever that the next few years will be golden years for the farmers of North America. There will be a colossal demand for their products at high prices. Naturally, then, the present get on the land movement merits universal approval.—Winnipeg Voice.

BARBARIC WAR.

One by one the tales of old barbaric wars are retelling themselves. In the burning of Louvain, we have a parallel to the burning of Alexandria by the Caliph Omar. And we can imagine some drunken German soldier, when he set the University Library ablaze, posing the dons with the Caliph's famous dilemma, "Are these volumes in accord with the teachings of German culture? If so, they are superfluous; if not, they are pernicious. And so, in either case, I may as well burn them."—Shipping World.

THE TEST OF GERMAN TEMPERAMENT.

The Kaiser and his satellites dare not let it be realized that they are not infallible and that their resources are more than matched by their opponents. They cannot indefinitely keep the power of events at bay, and when their fetish is broken we shall see German temperament exposed to a test which it has not known for half a century. It may still be some distance off, but it is awaited with curious interest by all who concern themselves about the psychology of nations.—Fall Mall Gazette.

ARMED PEACE.

Was it for this that the nations of Europe have groaned beneath the burdens of militarism all these years? Will human folly repeat it?—Chicago Public.

THE VALUE OF NERVE.

Don't let the war in Europe kill your nerve and it will not kill your business.—Detroit Free Press.

NEWS COSTS MONEY.

(From the Publishers Guide.)
What this war is costing the newspaper in cable tolls alone is laconically told in the case of The New York Times, in figures supplied by the manager of The Times News Bureau, as follows:
For the four weeks ending Saturday night, September 12—

	Words.	Cost.
London cable	271,502	\$19,890.08
Paris cable	25,075	\$2,514.60
Total	296,575	\$22,404.68

An average per day of \$800.
These figures do not include the thousands of words of news received from Berlin by wireless and through the Associated Press or the news from other centres, the cost of which is a heavy addition to the above figures.

FOUR TO ONE SHOT.

The British navy is still 4 to 1 shot in the Maritime Handicap.—Ottawa Citizen.

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GERMANY'S "GOOD FAITH."

When Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, in his Manchester speech on October 18 last, renewed his proposal in behalf of the British Government that Great Britain and Germany agree to take a year's holiday in battleship building, Grand Admiral von Tirpitz, Naval Secretary of State for Germany, replied: "The German navy has a purely defensive function, and no aggressive purpose." Yet within less than a year Germany declares a war so stupendous as to stagger humanity, while the whole armament of Europe leaps to the challenge.—New York Independent.

THE REAL TROUBLE MAKERS.

The New York Outlook, in discussing the causes of the war, sums up as follows: "Students of history who take the trouble to read the English White Paper, the German White Paper and the Russian Orange Paper, which, combined, give the bulk of the diplomatic correspondence immediately preceding the war, will find no difficulty in reaching the conclusion that Austria, who refused all appeals of the powers to submit to them the evidence of her charges against Serbia, and Germany, who refused to co-operate with the powers in asking Austria to submit her complaints against Serbia to a conference of the powers, are responsible for the European war, and that Sir Edward Grey in England and M. Sazonov in Russia, did all that it was possible for men to do to secure a peaceful adjustment of the issue."

WITH FIENDISH DELIBERATION.

Prof. Mercier, of Harvard, now with the French army, in a letter to the New York Post, says the Germans wantonly destroyed the Cathedral of Rheims with fiendish deliberation, that the bombardment was kept up for several days and that there was ample time for orders to come, even from the Kaiser himself, to stop the bombardment in time to save the Cathedral from fire, and that the bombardment of the Cathedral particularly was absolutely outside any possible connection with war operations.

COST OF WORLD'S WAR.

Paul Leroy-Beaulieu, the French political economist, estimates the length of the war at seven months, as in 1870, and the total cost at between \$2,000,000,000 and \$10,000,000,000. In liquidation of these sums, extending over three to five years, the greatest part of the world's savings will be absorbed and economic progress greatly slackened, he said; budget of each belligerent being charged with \$120,000,000 to \$140,000,000 additional per annum.

WAR PROMOTES TRADE.

Oh, yes, war promotes trade. A firm in St. Paul has received a rush order for 15,000 artificial legs—Saskatoon Phoenix.

THE EAGLE AT BAY.

A German submarine brought down the Hawk. But the Hawk's companions are still holding the eagle at bay.—London Free Press.

PEACE OR PIECES.

The Hungarians are said to be seeking an "understanding" with Russia. They have cause. With Hungary it is a choice of peace or pieces.—Edmonton Bulletin.

BANK OF ENGLAND'S RETURN ENCOURAGE

Proportion of Reserve to Liabilities Gained Over a Point on the Week

ITEMS ANALYZE WELL

Bank is Not Straining to Add to Its Gold Reserve. Minimum Discount Rate Still Somewhat Inal, Although Becoming Less So Every Week.

New York, October 22.—A further encouragement is shown in this week's Bank of England statement. The proportion of reserve to liabilities gained a point, and at 27.52 per cent is 13 points above the lowest figure of the war crisis. It will be noted that with the exception of the week, included the quarterly disbursements, there has been a continuous improvement week by week since the middle of August. The proportion is no figure by no means unprecedented in normal times, although the 10 year average for this week is 48.12 per cent.

Individual items respond well to analysis. Reduction in public deposits and government securities represent the large treasury operations of the week. It is satisfactory to note that the securities items, which represent the loans, a decrease of £4,325,000, which compares favorably with a smaller net decrease of £3,740,000 in two deposit items. The further increase of £700,000 in reserve and over £800,000 in bringing both those items to a high record point. There seems internal evidence that with £26,000,000 the bank is not straining to add gold reserves.

It will be noticed also that the bank has been enough bold against all its paper in the attitude allowed by the suspension of the Act. The bank rate remains at 5 per cent, it still a somewhat nominal minimum discount, although becoming less so every week.

London, October 22.—The Bank of England's return compares as follows:

	This week.	Last week.
Circulation	£34,798,000	£34,798,000
Public deposits	15,764,000	15,764,000
Private deposits	143,958,000	143,958,000
Gov't securities	24,074,000	24,074,000
Other securities	108,787,000	108,787,000
Reserve	43,713,000	43,713,000
Pro. res. to liab.	27.52 p.c.	26.46
Bullion	60,682,000	60,682,000

AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO.

New York, October 22.—Owing to unsettled conditions the directors of the American Bank Note Company have deferred action for the present on common dividend which has customarily been declared quarterly and which would have been payable on November 15th.

BEAVER'S NEW VEIN.

Cobalt, October 22.—An entirely new body of has been found on the Beaver property at a depth of 530 feet.

The new vein heads nearly north and south with average about 3 inches running close to

ences to the ton.

GUATEMALA BUYS INTEREST.

New Orleans, October 22.—Guatemalan Consularo Linafrestal was advised yesterday that \$25 sterling had been placed by his government council of foreign bondholders at London to pay down on government bonds due December, 1914, June, 1915.

This, it is said, is the first payment on the total debt made by the Guatemalan government several years.

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