

proposed enterprises; and without doubt the duty should be laid. It might be made differential and applicable only to such nations as impose onerous and prohibitive duties upon Canadian produce; and whatever moneys that might be derived from this source might be devoted to the encouragement of such enterprises as those suggested by Mr. Ritchie.

Impose the duty.

ABUSE VS. ARGUMENT.

THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER is going for an export duty upon nickel ore with tooth and claw. It is ravenous for an export duty, and should Sir John and Mr. Bowell fail to respond we may expect to see the tooth and claws of the MANUFACTURER inserted into their vitals. The mouthpiece of the gentlemen of the Red Parlor has worked itself into a state of greater excitement over this matter than over any other it has taken up in all the years of its life.

It has been wild enough when dealing with the question of Free Trade between Canada and the United States, but its discussion of that matter has been moderation itself compared with its manner of urging upon the Government the duty of putting an export duty upon nickel.

Four leading articles and nine editorial paragraphs in the last number of the MANUFACTURER, show how much the great editor knows, or, perhaps we should say, they give an intimation of what he knows of the way in which a nickel industry is to be built up in Ontario. But everything is seen from a restrictionist point of view, and until the editor has broken his shell he cannot be expected to see beyond the end of his nose. We do not hope to find Sir John or Mr. Bowell displaying much liberality of opinion when any subject affecting the trade of the country is under consideration, but after the experience they have had with the export duties upon timber they are not likely to be forced to place an export duty upon nickel at the bidding of the MANUFACTURER.—*London Advertiser*.

It is the opinion of Mr. S. J. Ritchie, who is largely interested in probably the largest nickel mine in the Sudbury district, that with some assistance from the Dominion Government refined nickel could be manufactured to advantage in Canada; and not only refined nickel, but nickel steel such as is now growing into large demand for armor plates for war vessels, and other forms and combinations of nickel, iron, steel, etc. Without an unqualified endorsement of Mr. Ritchie's scheme, we hope that the Government may see its way clear to make an offer to Mr. Ritchie that will result in the erection of the works he suggests. Possessing five sixths or more of all the known deposits of nickel ore in the world, and with the certainty of a demand for the metal infinitely larger than ever before existed, it would be a grand era for Canada if the nickel ores to be taken from her mines were manufactured at home. It would mean the investment of millions of capital, the employment of thousands of men, and immense traffic for railways in Canada. Canada has the ability to bring about this situation. It can be done on the one hand by restricting the export of the crude material, and on the other hand by affording some such aid as that asked for by Mr. Ritchie.

In asking the Dominion Government to restrict the export of nickel ore and matte we would suggest that it be done in such manner as to conserve the best interests of the country. It is not at all likely that the ore would be exported to any country other than the United States because of its bulkiness,

the long distance it would have to be transported, and the great cost of transportation; as it is all the shipments that are being made to Europe are of the matte smelted at the mines. This is a comparatively inexpensive process, the valuable metals contained in the ore being reduced to about one-sixth of the original weight. As is well known recent legislation in the United States was passed for the avowed purpose of forcing the manufacture of the refined metal in that country. Until the recent discovery of the great value of nickel, the few small mines in the United States produced about enough nickel to supply the current demand there, and to protect these mines against the importation of foreign nickel, a duty of fifteen cents per pound was levied against all forms of the article—in the ore, the matte and refined. The United States has great need of nickel, and this need must of necessity be met from Canadian mines. But great as this need is, a heavy duty is laid on imports of nickel metal, while the ore has been transferred to the free list. No other country could afford to import Canadian ore; and the object of the legislation was to force the ore into that country for refinement, and to exclude the metal that might be refined in Canada.

Canada has the opportunity to block this exceedingly selfish game, and it can be done by imposing an export duty upon ore and matte.

This was not the only legislation passed by the American Congress aimed directly and in an unfriendly spirit against Canadian interests. With a meanness not at all becoming to a great nation, it endeavored to coerce Canada into a commercial union, and later into a political union that is distasteful and against the best interests of the country. In furtherance of this the screws have been applied, but, thank God, Canada can stand it. She will stand it; and in the same spirit she can resent what is being forced upon her. If the United States desires Canadian nickel and don't want to pay Canada liberally for it, the removal of prohibitory duties upon Canadian produce might possibly have that effect. As long as these American prohibitory duties prevail—as long as a heavy duty is imposed upon Canadian nickel, it would be only fair that these duties be met with an export duty on nickel ore.

There is no need for the *Advertiser* or any other Grit journals raving and ranting over the proposition. Abuse is not argument. Making mean insinuations, and hurling inuendoes betray weakness. This journal does not propose framing or passing laws. It has a right to suggest such legislation as it thinks will be for the benefit of Canada, and to discuss the question in its different bearings. We would be pleased to see other journals pursue the same course. And we are willing to leave the matter finally in the hands of such great statesmen as our revered and beloved leader, Sir John A. Macdonald.

Impose the duty.

COMBINES.

THE *London Advertiser* in an editorial "Combines, Farmers and Manufacturers," calls attention to the fact that, at a recent meeting of the Farmers' Institute of East Middlesex, a discussion was had on the "best means for abolishing the combines under which Canadian farmers are mulcted for the benefit of a