

# THE TRUTH ABOUT NICKEL

*Facts Stronger  
Than Furore*

If Hartley Dewart had his way the Canadian, British and Allied armies would have been without munitions.

If Hartley Dewart had his way Canada would have been an "independent" neutral, without part or honor in the great war.

If Hartley Dewart had his way Canadian reinforcements would not have gone overseas in 1918, and Canada would have withdrawn from the struggle discredited and dishonored among the nations.

Hartley Dewart's nickel furore in the face of the disclosed facts is consistent with Hartley Dewart's attempted and implied betrayal of the Canadian soldiers.



## 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.

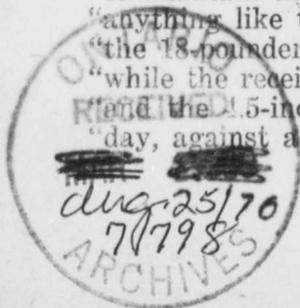
On July 18, 1916, the Colonial Secretary wired Sir Robert Borden as follows:—

“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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"private letters and telegrams I had repeatedly brought this "to the notice of the Secretary of State and a strong official "memorandum on the subject was sent to the War Office on "September 28th. . . . The War Office were officially told "that the state of the ammunition supply had necessitated the "issue of an order restricting expenditure to twenty rounds "per gun daily, and that a further restriction to ten rounds "would be necessary if the supply did not improve. This was "during the most desperate period of the first battle of Ypres, "when the average daily expenditures of 18-pounder ammunition had amounted to eighty-one rounds per gun."

After further remonstrance with the War Office to which little response was given, Lord French reached the conclusion stated in the following ominous paragraph:

"This amazing attitude at a most critical time compelled me to consider means by which the several members of the Government and the public also might be advised of this deplorable apathy, which if long continued, meant the **destruction of our army.**"

#### WAR OFFICE PLACED ORDERS.

When the War Office realized larger supplies of ammunition were necessary for successfully prosecuting the war, orders were hurriedly placed in United States and Canada.

**The Ontario Government had no more to do with prohibiting the export of nickel than it had with the export of wheat. It was a matter entirely within the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. At that time there was no known process for refining nickel in Canada, nor was there a refinery in Canada for treating nickel. To have denied the export of nickel would have stopped the manufacture of munitions on this continent, and this, in the words of Lord French, would have meant "the destruction of our army."**

It is a fact that from the commencement of the war until released by the British Government, the International Nickel Company disposed of every pound of nickel made from Ontario ore and finished in its refinery under an order of the British Government. During the war the British Allies were necessarily supplied with nickel; thousands of pounds went to Italy, France and Japan; not one shipment was made without the approval of the British Government through the committee on Foreign Supplies and under Dominion license.

It would be just as absurd to prohibit the export of wheat or any other staple commodity recognized as contraband of war, as to have refused in the face of the terrible consequences involved to supply nickel for munitions.

The Providence Journal  
The Evening Bulletin

JOHN R. RATHBON  
Editor and General Manager

Providence, R. I.  
June 23rd, 1917.

C. M. McCrae, Esq., M.L.A.,  
Sudbury, Ontario,  
Canada.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to yours of June 18th, I do not hesitate to write to you what I have already stated publicly many times, both in Canada and in this country,- that, as far as we know, Canadian nickel has not been going to Germany for a long time, with the single exception of the shipment on the Deutschland referred to by us several months ago.

Even in this instance, as shown by our story, the nickel which left New London on the Deutschland had been in the United States for at least two years prior to being shipped and, as far as we know, the officers of the International Nickel Company had long since lost all interest in or connection with that particular tonnage.

It has always seemed inconceivable to us that the officers of that corporation should have ever deliberately permitted any direct traffic of this kind since the beginning of the war, and we know of no instance where this has been done.

We have noted with concern that our assertion with regard to the shipment of the nickel referred to on the Deutschland was in some quarters taken to mean that there was

some direct connection between the International Company and the consignment of this nickel. Never, however, in any of our published stories was there any hint or suggestion that this was the case.

All we did was to print the exact facts relating to the shipment, in what warehouse it had been stored for a long period of time, the roundabout way in which it was taken from one point to another, and the fact that it originally came from the International people. We did not draw any connection between these facts and the charge that the International knew anything whatever of the destination of this particular shipment, and no fair-minded person reading the stories could draw any such conclusion.

Very truly yours,

*W. R. Patton*

## THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MERTON COMPANY.

Hartley Dewart lays great stress on the foreign holdings in the firm of Henry R. Merton & Company. Before the war this concern was one of the tentacles that Germany had reached forth to control the trade of the world and strengthen her military ascendancy. When the war commenced, the British Government, which had utilized this firm for the purchase of metals, made enquiries. According to the record before the war 55 per cent. of the shares were owned by British subjects which represents a controlling interest. 30 per cent. appears to have been held in Germany and 15 per cent. by neutrals. Without going tediously into the matter, the result was that the enemy holding of shares in the Merton Company was entirely extinguished, not in a perfunctory manner, but to the satisfaction of the London Times, the British Board of Trade and the High Court of Justice.

The following cable received by the Prime Minister of Canada, from the Rt. Hon. Bonar Law, Colonial Secretary in the British Government, on November 27th, 1916, deals with this matter:—

**“It is a fact that His Majesty’s Government has approved from the first of the arrangements made by your Government for refined nickel to American plants. It is recognized by His Majesty’s Government that it would be impossible, and indeed manifestly injurious in the conduct of the war, to prohibit the export of Canadian nickel matte, and they have concurred in the method of supervision now being adopted which seems to them to be the best practical method.”**

**“Mertons have eliminated the enemy holding in the company with the approval of the board of trade. His Majesty’s Government therefore utilized the services of this Company, which have assisted in securing government control of metals. Such control, owing to pre-war conditions, could hardly have been secured without their help.”**

## THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL.

Great stress has been laid by Mr. Dewart on the disclosures in the Providence “Journal.” The Providence “Journal” performed a highly important and highly appreciated service during the war in the interest of Great Britain. What Hartley Dewart claims the Providence “Journal” found about nickel and what the Providence “Journal” **did** find is shown in the following letter and John R. Rathom’s reply, which is reproduced on another page:

Sudbury, 18th June, 1917.

John R. Rathom, Esq.,  
Editor, The "Journal",  
Providence, R. I.

"Dear Sir:—

"I had the pleasure, while in Toronto last week, of hearing your address, given at the Empire Club, on German activities in the United States, and the exposures made through the efforts of your paper.

"As the representative of the District of Sudbury in the Ontario Parliament, I have been much interested in the nickel agitation, which was the subject of considerable discussion in Canada, since the outbreak of the war.

"One of the interesting features which arose at the time this discussion was going on, was the article in the Providence 'Journal' with reference to Canadian nickel going to Germany, and in some quarters an interpretation was put upon your articles that since the war started, the International Nickel Company were permitting nickel, the product of Ontario mines, to get into German hands for shipment to Germany.

"I have no hesitation in saying that, knowing as I do some of the representative men of the International Nickel Company, including the President and Vice-President, and the spirit of friendliness which they have, to my knowledge, manifested towards the Entente Allies from the inception of the war, I could not, and up to the present do not believe that the heads of this concern have been a party to selling nickel to German agents or to Germany, while holding out to the Canadian Government to the contrary.

"I shall appreciate it very much, if you feel at liberty to say just what were the facts discovered by the 'Journal' in this connection.

"Half-truths are sometimes worse than a full measure of falsehood, and I should like, as a public man in this community, to be in possession, should occasion arise, of information which would enable me to do full justice to a business concern's integrity or to the people, where it is deserved, or on the other hand, to know the facts in the public interest.

"Thanking you in anticipation of your reply, and assuring you of the deep interest and appreciation which we, as Canadians, feel in the work you have done in this war.

"I am, yours very truly,"

CHAS. McCRAE.

## NICKEL REFINED IN CANADA.

The excessive demand for nickel and consequent increased production enhanced the profits made by the International Nickel Company. In order that it might be adjusted, a Royal Commission was appointed to study the whole question, not alone with relation to the proportion of taxation that should be paid by the industry, but whether it was possible to refine commercially nickel in Ontario. The Commission reported that nickel could be refined here and in consequence a plant was erected at Port Colborne costing about five millions of dollars, and is now in operation employing a large number of men. The basis of taxation was changed. The Company is now paying to the Province hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly in increased taxes, returning to the people a substantial portion of the profit secured from the war trade in this material.

## DEWART AND REINFORCEMENTS.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Hartley Dewart, who would have withheld munitions from the soldiers, found himself in sympathy and association with those who would have withheld reinforcements.

When Canada was loyally battling at the polls to enforce conscription, Hartley Dewart quibbled that the Militia Act should be invoked to enable those in the expeditionary force to go overseas.

Speaking in Ottawa November 27, 1917, he said: "Conscription is being used as a bludgeon with which to hit the Province of Quebec. There is no honest person behind it. They use it for partisan means."

With shameless mendicancy he proposed that Canada should relinquish her position to the United States. This is what he said: "If we should have to borrow from the man power of the United States, would it be any more disgraceful than having to borrow of their money and their food supplies?"

In the same issue of the daily paper that published the report of these meetings, there were three and four columns of casualties. This was consistent with his declared attitude as a young man, that he was in favor of the severance of Canada from the British Empire.

On every great question that has been before the people of Canada, Hartley Dewart has played the part of the reactionary.

He advocates the severance of Canada from the British Empire.

He extolled the crimes of the old Ross Government.

He is an active and sinister opponent of Hydro-Electric.

He spoke and worked against sending reinforcements to the Canadian troops in the direst hours of the war.

**In the supreme hour of victory, when the Canadians won Mons, it is a fact that the Canadian army was the only force on the Western front that was up to full strength with its reserves and supplies ready to push forward. This would have been the case if Hartley Dewart had had his way.**