

few years be a steady stream of millions of dollars' worth of property going to the United States to be refined, and employment given there to thousands, while our mills here were idle or deprived of work they should have. There was in the United States an import duty of six cents a pound on refined nickel. Whenever this country threatened to compel the refinement here the United States tried to frighten us off by talking about New Caledonia nickel. He believed the Government in their amendment a year ago were patriotic. They had at least been patriotic since the Opposition stirred them up. (Ministerial laughter.) The position of the nickel industry was identical in principle with that of the sawlogs, and the home manufacture could be enforced in the same way. There were three or four known processes of refining nickel, so that the Orford Copper Company were not in possession of the only method of refinement.

Deceit Charged.

Mr. Carscallen quoted figures to show the growth and the importance of the nickel industry. In 1892 the value of the nickel produced was \$590,000, and in 1899 \$525,000, as returned by the Canadian Copper Company. As a matter of fact, the product in 1899 was double what it was in 1892. The copper produced in 1892 was \$232,136, compared with \$176,237 in 1899. The fact was, the industry was growing and developing in value. The Canadian Copper Company and those allied with it found it to their interest to conceal the true state of facts, because they have such a source of wealth flowing into their treasury. The metal contents as returned were less than half what they ought to be. The wages paid in the industry in Ontario was \$442,879 in 1899 to 839 employees, while in 1900 it had grown to \$728,946 to 1,444 employees. This showed how the industry was growing. He had no quarrel with the Canadian Copper Company, but he did find fault with the way this great question had been handled here. The sum distributed in the United States in wages, etc., amounted to \$12,578,000, or 72 per cent. of the whole. We had the wealth and the furnaces, but got only 28 per cent. of the revenue. The United States trade returns showed that that country got 97 per cent. of her nickel from Canada. The figures in their official returns showed that they received from Canada more than double what the figures given by the company to the Ontario department indicated. Of the nickel which the United States received from us they exported large quantities to other countries after its refinement.

Advantages to United States.

The figures presented at the annual meeting of the Canadian Copper Company showed that during eleven months last year the Orford Company refined for them 5,000 tons of refined nickel, valued at \$6,600,000, coming from this country. Of copper there had been 4,400 tons, valued at \$1,452,000, or a total of \$8,052,000 in the two metals, while Ontario got a paity \$728,000 in wages. In the same period \$1,145,000 was paid the Orford Com-

pany for its work of refining.

In conclusion Mr. Carscallen referred to the law of last year, giving the Lieutenant-Governor in Council power to impose a mineral tax, to be remitted when the ore was refined in Canada. He objected to allowing this to hang over the head of capital. The law should be made certain. Put the duty on, and refineries would grow up here and multiply, and we would have in two years enough of them to refine all the nickel for years to come. If the matter were properly dealt with we would in a few years make Ontario the centre of a great nickel and nickel-steel industry. (Opposition applause.)

For a Mineral Tax.

Mr. Carscallen moved "that there is in the Province of Ontario one of the two great nickel deposits of the world, and the only one on the North American continent. And the product of the Ontario nickel and copper mines has for many years been shipped in a crude state to foreign countries, there to be refined.

"And the process of refining nickel and copper ores can be successfully and profitably carried on in Canada. And the establishment of nickel refineries in Ontario would probably result in the erection of plant for the manufacture of nickel-steel and the consequent employment of large numbers of workmen in that industry.

"And section 7, of chapter 13, 63 Victoria (Ontario), intituled 'An act to amend the mines act,' provides for a

tax of ten dollars per ton on ores of nickel, or sixty dollars per ton on nickel ores, if partly treated or reduced, and seven dollars per ton on ores of copper and nickel combined, or fifty dollars per ton on nickel and copper ores combined, if partly treated or reduced. And section 10 of the act provides for the remission of taxes on ores refined in Canada.

"And it is provided in section 13 of the act that section 7 and 10 shall not come into force or effect until so brought into force or effect by proclamation of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

"And although nearly a year has passed since the act was assented to, no such proclamation has been issued, it is the opinion of this House that the taxation of nickel ores, and of copper and nickel ores combined, as provided for in section 7 of the act, should be imposed, and that sections 7 and 10 of the act should come into force from and after the first day of July, 1902. And further, that the revenue accruing from such taxation, or a portion thereof, be used to encourage, by bounties, the manufacture of nickel-steel in the Province of Ontario."

Mr. Davis' Reply.

Hon. Mr. Davis agreed with the hon. gentleman that the question should be looked at from a business standpoint. It pleased him also to hear the complimentary remarks regarding the Bureau of Mines. The department was a most useful one, accomplishing a splendid work. The Ontario nickel deposits were, he continued, very large, the largest in the world, with the exception, perhaps, as had been said, of New Caledonia. They