

were a source of wealth to the Province which would increase with the passing years. Objection had been made to the export of nickel matte, and he was bound to say that he thought all would agree that it was a desirable thing to have nickel ore refined and manufactured in Ontario. But there was one special feature to which the hon. gentleman had not addressed himself, he had, in fact, overlooked a most important consideration. It had been said that we had no refinery in the Province, and, unfortunately, that statement was true. However, he desired to point out that the act to which the resolution alluded was framed in the hope and expectation that in a short time thereafter two refineries would be in full running order, refining nickel at a cost which would enable it to be put on the market cheaply enough to compete with nickel from any other quarter. These refineries had not been built as had been expected, and, under the circumstances, the export of nickel matte for refining purposes could not be hindered without striking a serious blow to the nickel industry.

Nickel Refining Process.

Mr. Davis then dealt with the various processes of refining nickel matte, pointing out the difficulties of the operation, and the fact that up to a recent date no satisfactory solution had been reached in the way of lessening the cost, so far as concerned Ontario ores at least. There were now three processes which were looked upon as successful. One of these was invented by Dr. Mond, but was said to be too expensive to operate in Canada owing to the heavy cost of the material required. At the Soo Mr. Clergue and at Hamilton other parties had tried, and were still trying, to solve the problem of refining matte at a reasonable cost. There were a number of processes being tested, from which great results are expected. It was not too much to hope that one of these might soon be in operation in Ontario. Mr. Davis spoke of the Canada Copper Company, dealing briefly with its growth from the time of its establishment a few years ago until last year, when it employed 1,500 hands, paid \$521,000 in wages, and large sums in machinery, supplies, etc. The hon. gentleman had stated that the company had a practical monopoly of the industry because they had secured the richest areas adjacent to the railways. This was hardly correct. It was true that the company had secured large areas for their industry, but there were many rich deposits, some of them only recently discovered, in parts of the country which were easily accessible. The act of last session, he pointed out, was framed with a view to aiding the mining industries of the Province, and had resulted in the desired effect. Under present circumstances matte could not be refined in Ontario, but that, he hoped, would not be long delayed. In fact a new factory at Copper Cliff was almost completed, which would, while not completely refining the matte from the Canada Copper Company, enable that company to increase the metallic value of the ore. This was a great step in advance, and one which would give employment to many more men.

Mining Development.

After dealing with the development of the industry at the Soo, Mr. Davis, continuing, said that the act had resulted in greatly increased activity in the mining industry throughout the Province. The old Bruce mines and the Rock Lake mines were now being worked again, with the assistance of American and English capital, and employment was being given to hundreds of men. He defended the manner in which the act was framed, and argued that sometimes laws, if put into force immediately after enactment, might be found to act disastrously. The measure was a good one; it was perfectly fair to leave the applying of its provisions to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, just as it had always been considered fair to leave many important matters to the Governor-General at Ottawa. The year 1900 had been a record one in regard to the growth and activity of the mining industries of the country, and it could not, therefore, be said that the act had retarded in any sense that progress. Nearly one thousand more men were employed in the nickel industry of the country alone than at any time in its history, and in all branches of mining progress and advancement had been marked. On this question, as on all questions relating to the public interests, the Government was fully alive to its responsibilities. During the course of his remarks Mr. Davis took the opportunity of expressing the opinion that the Opposition was not responsible for the present sawlog policy, and held that the journals of the House would show that it had originated on the Government side. He also combatted the idea that the waterpower of Niagara should be free, as the hon. gentleman had said. The Opposition had contended for a fair rental of the waterpower in new Ontario, and this change about was inconsistent.

An Amendment.

He moved in amendment to the resolution: "That it would appear to be premature and not in the public interests to bring into force sections 4 to 11 of chapter 13, 63 Victoria, at the present time, and that the proper time to bring the same into effect may be safely left to his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, with whom it is confided in the said act."

Mr. Whitney's Views.

Mr. Whitney was a little sorry that the hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands had been unable to follow the lead of the mover of the resolution, and treat the question in a non-political spirit. At first blush, he said, it would seem that a sawlog policy and nickel policy should be of a similar nature. This was not so apparent on closer examination, and while all were agreed as to the value of the sawlog policy, and the desirability of having nickel refined in Canada, he was not in a position to say that this tax should be put on the nickel industry at the present time. From conversations with mining men he gathered that they were all united against such a tax. Not only so, but all were on the side of the Canada Copper Company in this par-