

NICKEL COMPANY GETS MORE LAND

Mr. Dewart Shows Grant of
236 Additional Acres

STRONG SPEECH IN HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Ferguson Claims Grant Was
Made to Private Prospector—Mr.
Dewart's Resolution Regarding
Nickel is Voted Down.

"This House would respectfully represent to your Honor that in view of the vital part which nickel plays in modern warfare and of its great economic value, the refining of all nickel mined in this Province should be carried on wholly within the British Empire, and, so far as practicable, wholly within the Province; and as a step towards the Government control of the nickel industry this Province should own and operate a refining plant in which all the nickel matte mined in this Province should be refined."

This resolution, moved by Mr. Dewart and seconded by Mr. Carter, formed the conclusion of Mr. Dewart's strong and aggressive speech in the Legislature yesterday during the debate on the Address. It was voted down by fifty-nine to twenty-six, and the House approved an amendment by Mr. McCrea expressing approval of the Government's course regarding nickel.

The House and galleries were crowded, and the points of the new Liberal member from Southwest Toronto were loudly acclaimed by the Liberals, while his criticism of the Ministers was exceedingly clever and effective. It was a mistake for any of the Ministerialists to interrupt, for the member for Southwest Toronto scored every time. More than once the Ministers moved uneasily, and at no time more than when Mr. Dewart unfolded a map and disclosed information which he had obtained at the registry at Sudbury, showing that 236 acres in the nickel belt were given by Hon. Howard Ferguson's Department to the Canadian Copper Company at \$3 an acre. The Toronto member brought out the fact that in spite of this the Hon. Mr. Ferguson declared at Alliston on January 4 that not one acre of nickel-bearing lands had been given to companies since the present Government came into power.

Serving Two Masters.

Another notable point made by Mr. Dewart was that Professor Guess, while he was serving the Government in an official capacity, had been associated with the Canadian Copper Company and had given expert evidence on their behalf. Hon. Mr. Ferguson expressed surprise, saying he never knew Professor Guess did work for the Copper Company. He added that the professor was a gentleman of sufficient integrity to do the Government work in a proper way. Mr. Dewart's retort was "he can't serve two masters at the same time."

Mr. Ferguson's Explanation.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson, at the evening session, took notice of Mr.

Dewart's reference to the patents, and sought to explain that the claims were staked in the ordinary way under the mining laws by a private prospector in January, 1916. The prospector assigned his rights to the Canadian Copper Company and requested that the patents be issued directly, and that was done.

Mr. McCrea's Defence.

In a lengthy speech Mr. Charles McCrea of Sudbury defended the Government's nickel policy, and moved an amendment to the amendment "That this House views with satisfaction the announcement in the Speech from the Throne that the findings of the Nickel Commission will shortly be laid before the House, and that legislation based on the findings of the Nickel Commission will be brought down."

To-day the Hon. T. W. McGarry will deliver the Budget speech.

In opening, Mr. Dewart congratulated the Premier upon the honor that came to him on the opening day of the Legislature. "He stands in a line of distinguished predecessors, Sir Oliver Mowat, Sir George Ross and Sir James Whitney, all deservedly honored, and it was most fitting that as First Minister of the Province the same honor should be bestowed upon Premier Hearst."

Where Speech Fails.

Going on, Mr. Dewart said the Speech from the Throne was remarkable not for what it contained, but for the important matters that had been omitted, such as votes for women, nickel and agriculture. He touched briefly on the war and war conditions in the field, throughout the Empire, on the seas of the world and at home, and emphasized the need for economy and thrift. To those who could not engage in active service there was the duty of home service, of seeing that the business of the country was so conducted as to make every dollar tell. To this end there should be healthy criticism of Government administration. Since the war commenced they had had four Provincial elections in which public questions had been considered and the Governments had stood or fallen by their record. In Manitoba, in 1915, a corrupt Government had been succeeded by a strong and vigorous Liberal Administration which had placed upon the statute books a measure of prohibition. There had been elections since in Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Nova Scotia, and the Governments in those Provinces had been returned. In British Columbia the people had spoken in no uncertain terms when they had found it necessary to retire from the Treasury benches gentlemen who had squandered the resources of the Province.

Dewart Behind Rowell.

Referring to his own attitude during the Southwest Toronto campaign, Mr. Dewart said he had stood solidly and squarely behind the Liberal policy, the policy of Mr. Rowell.

Declares Nickel Question to be First in Ontario

Mr. Dewart said that in our Ontario politics there was no more outstanding question than the nickel question as it stands to-day. Since 1905, during the time of the development of nickel in this Province, during the time the International Nickel Company has come into active operation, and during the time that its operations have extended throughout the world, during that time the Conservative Government had been in power, and during that time the people of the Province and the Dominion have a right to complain that there has been no effective safeguard placed upon control of the nickel that is mined in the Province. "And not only do we complain that there has been no control of the important business of refining in this Province, but we complain that the Government has not required a just toll for Provincial taxation," added Mr. Dewart.

Refining Out of Canada.

Proceeding, Mr. Dewart stated the International Company, formed in 1902, took over the Canadian Copper Company and other concerns. It was formed to do what the Canadian Copper Company was not allowed to do by its act of incorporation—refine outside of Canada. "We do not know the character or nationality of