

REFINING OF NICKEL PUT UP TO GOVERNMENT

Mr. Dewart Reads Long List of Shareholders of Inter- national Nickel Co. With German Names—Heated Reply From Minister

The straight question of refining nickel in Ontario was put up to the Government in the Legislature late last evening by Mr. Hartley Dewart, member for Southwest Toronto. The resolution he moved set forth that negotiations should at once be entered into by the Provincial Government with the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Dominion of Canada to secure united action to acquire the absolute control of the nickel mines and nickel product of the Province, and in the meantime the Government of Ontario should take proceedings to acquire, construct, or otherwise secure the control of nickel refining plant in the Province where all nickel mined in the Province could be refined.

Mr. Dewart charged that the International Nickel Company had been organized to refine nickel outside the Province of Ontario, because the Canadian Copper Company (its subsidiary) could not under its charter refine nickel outside the Province.

Jumped Up the Price.

"And the first thing the International Nickel Company did when they heard the taxes were to be increased was to raise the price of nickel from 35 to 45 cents a pound," he said. He alleged the International Nickel Company was full of shareholders who represented German and Austrian interests, and there were large German holdings under an English veneer. He read a hundred German names, which caused the Minister of Mines to remark: "Those newspapermen will never be able to get that down."

Mr. Dewart added that in the "Roll of Honor" he found Hon. W. J. Hanna of the Ontario Government with 885 shares of the common stock, and Hon. Wallace Nesbitt with 1,000 preferred shares and 891 common shares.

Minister's Heated Reply

Hon. Mr. Ferguson, in a heated reply, said: "I hold no brief whatever for the International Nickel Company. The member for Southwest Toronto reads a lot of German names and infers that these shareholders of the Nickel Company are alien enemies. The list has been carefully checked over by the authorities at Ottawa, and I am assured by them that the deportation of alien enemies at the beginning of the war was just one in one thousand. If this octopus, as the honorable member describes it, is controlled by alien enemies of Great Britain, how long do you suppose the International Nickel Company would have been providing munitions for the allies after war broke out?"

"When the war commenced the head of the International Nickel Company told the Canadian Government, 'We are with you in this war. We control the nickel supply of the world. What will you have us do? Take charge of our work and control it and operate it.'"

The arrangements made, added Hon. Mr. Ferguson, have the entire approval of the British Government.

Bonar Law's View.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson quoted cables from Mr. Bonar Law, one in last November, saying the British Government recognized it "would be impossible, and, indeed, manifestly injurious, to the conduct of the war to prohibit the export of Canadian nickel matte."

Mr. Ferguson stated the British

Government were interested in the British-American Nickel Corporation and had practically control of the corporation, and are making large contracts with the British-American Corporation.

Mr. Dewart's motion was defeated by 47 to 22 and the bill given its second reading.

Mr. Dewart's Resolution.

Mr. Dewart's resolution, after quoting from the recent report of the Royal Ontario Nickel Commission as to the possibilities of refining in Ontario, said:

"This House is of the opinion that negotiations should be at once entered into by the Government of this Province with the Governments of the United Kingdom and of the Dominion of Canada to secure united action to acquire the absolute control of the nickel mines and nickel product of the Province of Ontario; and that, in the meantime, the Government of Ontario should take proceedings to acquire, construct or otherwise secure the control of nickel refining plant in this Province where all the nickel mined in this Province could be refined."

Government's Neglect.

Mr. Dewart quoted a letter dated 29th December, 1915, by Sir Robert Borden to the President of the International Nickel Company, stating that the question of refining nickel in Canada had engaged public attention in recent years, and since the outbreak of the war there had been a particularly strong feeling—apart from any commercial aspect—that there should be in the Dominion a nickel refinery sufficient at least to supply the requirements of the British Empire. And yet the Government of the Province of Ontario appeared to have only realized in August last it was time they should co-operate in this matter. It was the avowed policy of the International Nickel Company to see that, so far as the shipbuilding business of the world is concerned, so soon as this war is over they shall endeavor to supply the nickel that is needed for the warships of the world.

Building in U.S. or Canada?

"Do we desire to see that this company shall continue its refining business in the United States or what are we going to do?" asked Mr. Dewart. "This Government has control over the Canada Copper Company so far as its mines and minerals are concerned, and if there is any question about it there is not the least doubt that the Government could get what power it needs at Ottawa were it not for the sinister influence of Frank Cochrane. (Liberal applause.) If my hon. friend will ask Frank Cochrane if he will assist him, and if after an honest effort is made he comes back and says he cannot get the assistance of the Dominion Government, then we will see the responsibility is placed on the shoulders to which it belongs." (Liberal applause.)

Many German Names in List of Shareholders

Large blocks of International Nickel Company stock are held by the voting trustees, who are five of the directors—Converse, DeLamar, Monell, Thompson and Wood—said Mr. Dewart. They hold preference stock, on the last statement, of 54,409 shares and common stock, 307,486 shares, making a total of 361,895 shares. The interests which they represent are, naturally, not disclosed. Taking the shareholders of the company listed as being from the United States, there are many names of shareholders of fifty shares and over that may fairly be classed as German-American stockholders. Take the following very partial list, including the Australian Reichenbach investment. You will find the following names upon the list of shareholders:—

Preference stock—J. W. Aitkan, New York, 100 shares; A. M. Arch-