

INCO OFFICIAL REVEALS HOW MILLION POUNDS OF NICKEL CAN BE SAVED OUT OF SCRAP

*Lost Now Because Alloy Steel Refuse Mixed With
Carbon Steel Waste, T. H. Wickenden
Tells Metals Conference*

Toronto, Oct. 11.—Investigation by technical experts of International Nickel reveals a reserve source of the strategic metal, vital to war and defence industries, from which it is possible to recover more than 1,000,000 pounds a month.

Details were revealed here Friday by T. H. Wickenden, assistant manager of development and research, of the International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited, attending the conference of U.S. and Canadian metals distributors with executives of the nickel industry.

In fabricating, Mr. Wickenden explained, from 20 to 40 per cent. of the alloy steel tonnage delivered by steel mills to manufacturers is lost. This occurs in machining and other processes. Sometimes in complicated processes losses run as high as 70 per cent. or even 80 per cent. in special cases. This steel goes into scrap and the general practice of industry has been to mix the alloy steel scrap with carbon steel scrap and dispose of it as carbon steel.

Nickel in Scrap

Mr. Wickenden revealed that periodic examinations have been made of miscellaneous scrap which show the scrap to contain approximately 0.05 per cent. of nickel. Automotive and other low alloy steels contain one to five per cent. nickel and in stainless steels the figure may often rise above 10 per cent. Mr. Wickenden stated that this scrap nickel, most of which has been lost in the past, except in the stainless steel field, is largely reclaimable. By a careful segregation of scrap which he outlined in detail, there is a possibility of recovering more than 1,000,000 pounds monthly of what is now lost nickel at a time when this metal, like all essential materials, is avail-

able to industry only under restrictions.

"During the past year approximately 70,000,000 tons of steel were produced in the United States," he reports. "At the average figure of 0.05 per cent. residual nickel, this tonnage would account for 70,000,000 pounds of nickel. This might well have been salvaged had scrap segregation been systematically carried out over the years in which, through cumulative effort, this residual nickel was being built up. Steel production is mounting rapidly. During the first eight months of this year, more scrap was used than in any other year of the American steel industry's history. Hence the concern of both government and industrial leaders for an intensified salvage campaign."

Mr. Wickenden, in explaining the salvage method, made clear that much more than segregation of alloy steel scrap from carbon steel scrap is involved. No general specifications for such segregation according to percentage of nickel content have yet been completely outlined but all scrap containing nickel is valuable and should be segregated.

"On the basis of present nickel consumption," he estimated, "up to 1,000,000 pounds of nickel a month may be saved for producers and users of these nickel steels."