

Re: Nickel Iron Bonanza

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- *From:* jbuch <jbuch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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mytg8 wrote:

Greetings-

I am a Science Fiction writer and have a couple of chapters (of a work in progress) based on the following premise. As is obvious, I know little or nothing about any phase of the metals market. The protagonist, through various means (this is science fiction, remember; I have a lot of leeway--er--miraculous happenings going on) :-).

Anyway, the situation is this- the protag has at his disposal roughly 100 trillion (million millions; ie, Teratons) of M-class asteroid nickel-iron. It's crushed, of very high purity (or so the scientific speculation of such asteroids claims), and is stored? in a readily accessible area, say, assume near railroads, uh... near Pittsburgh, or some steel center here in the US. This has been carried out by what we SF guys call Handwavium, with a capital aitch. One heck of a lot of high-grade nickel iron(12-15 trillion cubic meters), more or less ready for processing; ready for the mill. The protag owns it all, and is willing to sell it cheap. Say, just off the top of my head, a buck a ton. ;-)

If you are still reading :-), would you please give your opinion on what would now happen under the above...er...assumptions--

Could this massive amount of metal be processed by, say an upgrade of existing facilities in the USA?

More importantly, would the market implode because of the huge infusement of raw product? Or is an idea of a market saturation crash really too simplistic?

Re: Nickel Iron Bonanza

My own naive assessment is that the industry could upgrade, and accordingly turn the situation into a sort of revolution that mirrors the US steel market in the mid twentieth century, e.g., steel products replacing much of what is now made of plastic? A wild idea, to be sure.

Thanks for your time.

crs

Have you ever heard of the mystery called "The Diamond as Big as the Ritz"?

It involves a western USA family that found a diamond on their ranch which was as big as the Ritz hotel in New York City.

F Scott Fitzgerald was the author, I believe.

Not as old a work as the Jules Verne citation

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