

Piece of Metal

On Sat. Oct 14, Dr. Eric Smith and a colleague examined the mass of metal on site and took samples for future tests and analysis. Dr. Smith telephoned me later and expressed the following views. He was of the opinion that the earlier tests and analyses of the metal had not been comprehensive enough and only represented estimated quantitative metal components. He explained that a thorough and complete analysis was a long and somewhat costly business. However, he added that his Department were at present working on some experimental machines whereby it was hoped to simplify this procedure so that an accurate analysis could be carried out in about an hour. At present they were awaiting some special parts for these machines, after which, quite a bit of experimentation and testing would be involved before the machines were ready for operation. He said that it might take up to six months before they were ready, but when they were, he would carry out a full analysis and let us have a report on his findings.

During a discussion on the metal in general, he expressed some puzzlement at the laminated nature of the metal but said that a possible explanation could be that the mass might originally have been a foundry product which had lain around in the foundry for some time and that other metals might have been poured on top of it for some reason or or just for disposal reasons, but this was just a theory. He was also highly intrigued at the mystery of the finding of the metal in the St. Lawrence River under the circumstances outlined, but could offer no explanation for this. When I asked him about the inclusions on the outside surface of the metal, he said that while he could make no definite conclusion until he had carried out tests, etc., there was a possibility, if it was a foundry product, that these might be silicone or sand, which abounds in factories.

From his brief examination of the metal on site, he said that it did not appear to be a high quality metal, nor did he think it was unusually hard in texture but would reserve final judgment after tests had been made.