

of which we have almost the absolute monopoly. I want a national policy in regard to the refinement of nickel ores in this country and I want the Department of Mines—a most extravagant department, but one well officered by men who know the situation and who know the precious metal content of these ores—why the facts are not disclosed to us. I have read the reports of the Department of Mines year after year, and they hint at the real situation, but that is not sufficient. The Ontario Government have been working on the question and appointed a most expensive commission to investigate it. That investigation was carried on for months, and yet the facts were not disclosed. We have now a refinery, a branch of the International Nickel Company, refining at Port Colborne, and they did a peculiar thing; they suddenly changed their organization. They were a New Jersey corporation, but they came back under the law of Canada, and, as I say, are located at Port Colborne. At the present time I believe their works have suspended operations because of over production. But here we have a Provincial Government, which has a high class expensive mining department, and we have a Federal department of the same type. We have a treasury to-day absolutely in need of money, and there is no place where so large an amount of money can be got to meet the expenses of Canada and to help to pay its war debt, as there is in some kind of a tax which will compel these two enormously rich companies which control these essential ores;—there is no such source of income, to my mind, as there is in these two companies. Take the one fact that the United States Government, under their law for the taxation of war profits, were able to get \$3,500,000 in a few days by seizure. The facts have never yet been disclosed, but they can be ascertained; and if there is such a source of revenue open to the people of this country in these times of extreme financial difficulty, and if we have an absolute control of this ore and of the metal produced from it, why do we not avail ourselves of that revenue and assume that control? You talk about the production of iron and encouraging the reduction of iron ores in this country. Why not take charge of the precious metals we have in Canada, which are so rich and can contribute so much to help to pay the public debt.

I am not going into the question much more fully to-day, but I want to warn the Government that there are certain facts

soon to be disclosed in London and in Washington in connection with these metals that will startle the world and will show a pro-German leaning during the war that Canadians will be surprised to learn. And yet none of these facts have been brought out so far. I devoted months and years trying to get out these facts. I studied the question, and the further I got into it the more I was convinced of this pro-German influence. I was probably the first one in this House in the old days to set up this doctrine; that of all things we ought to have a national policy in regard to nickel and the other precious metals associated with it. But for some reason or other the hand of the Government in the province of Ontario and in the Dominion has been palsied and nothing has been done. There is a source of revenue, and again I want to call the attention of the Finance Minister to it. If the United States Government by a single seizure could compel the International Nickel Company, which was mining our ore in Sudbury, to pay \$3,500,000 in one year—I do not know what they have paid since, because the minute they were caught red handed they jumped out of the country and moved their works into Canada—it will be manifest that we are overlooking a fruitful source of revenue. Let us have a national policy in regard to this nickel. Let us keep this great store of platinum, radium and the other rare essential metals. There is not one of them that is not two or three times more valuable than gold, and they are sought all over the world. When the American Government saw that it was likely to be involved in the war it spent millions of dollars trying to get platinum. We have these precious metals, and they all played an important part in the war—indeed, they were so essential to our success that the British Government, I understand, entered into correspondence with the Dominions in regard to obtaining the maximum output.

Why have we not had a national policy in this country to see what is in these metals and what revenue is to be had from them? But this Government will not move, this Parliament will not move, and the Government of the province of Ontario will not move. The International Nickel Company for a long time defaulted in the payment of their revenue tax to the province of Ontario. Three or four times since I first introduced into this House this question of a nickel policy this so-called International Nickel Company has changed its corporate form, and men who were promin-