

some other metals, and if no such law is to be enacted in Canada what the reason is?

Hon. MARTIN BURRELL (Secretary of State): In reference to my hon. friend's question I might say that the Non-Ferrous Metals Bill passed by the British Parliament was considered very fully by a special committee, which, as Minister of Mines, I appointed last year. That Bill is designed not so much to serve the object my hon. friend has suggested, but really to get rid of German-controlled interests which were more or less predominant in certain metal interests in Great Britain. The conditions there were not the same as in this country. Our position in respect to our metals was entirely different from that of England. In this country a great many of our metal industries, and certainly a lot of our minerals are out of our jurisdiction and under the control of the provinces. If a law similar to the English Non-Ferrous Metals Bill had been passed here it would not operate in the same way as it did in England, and would have involved legislation on the part of the provinces which might or might not have been put into effect and to some extent might have had a restrictive effect in respect to the investment of American capital, which especially in our western country, is very largely interested in the Canadian metal industry. For these, and some other reasons I need not elaborate now, the Government decided they would not take any action at this particular time but would give the question further consideration if necessary. I may add, however, that even after that law was enacted in England there was quite a difference of opinion as to the wisdom of continuing it exactly in its present shape.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN: The explanation of the minister who has charge of the Mines Department is not quite satisfactory to me. I am told that the condition of affairs that the British Government eventually found in regard to the essential metals, and nickel is one of them, was such that it was a matter of grave consideration for the home Government, and for the defence of the Empire, that Germany did control these necessary or essential metals and that they did control nickel as made from the ores of Canada, and I have directed attention to it. As one who favours a national policy, I think it is high time we had in this country a national policy controlling these metals, yet we are allowing these metals to come in free. Who makes them? The Mond Nickel Company in Great Britain who control a great portion of the

[M. W. F. Maclean.]

Sudbury nickel mines, and the International Nickel Company that were in New Jersey, but are now in Canada. Neither of these companies up to date, although they have produced millions and millions of nickel and exported it all over the world—and I think in certain instances some of it has got to Germany—have told us anything about their business. I for one tell the Minister of Finance now, seeing that we are talking about nickel, that this same International Nickel Company that were operating in New Jersey a little over a year ago, suddenly paid to the United States Government over \$3,000,000 of a war tax on their profits. This money was got, I understand, by the seizure of a large block of so-called nickel matte, which, when examined—I have known this to be the case for a long time, but for some reason we cannot direct the attention of Parliament to it in this country—was found to be full of platinum, palladium, and all the rather precious metals that are in what is called the platinum group. The evidence was so straight that in two or three days this International Nickel Company, which controls the nickel mines of Sudbury, paid to the United States Government over \$3,000,000 of a tax on profits, and that out of nickel that came from Canada and was refined in United States. I would ask the minister whether he has ever made an effort to compel this company to pay a war profits tax on the refinements of nickel that come from Canada. Then there is that other great monopoly, the Mond Nickel Company. Sir Alfred Mond is associated in the British Government at the present time. He is the head of the nickel trusts all over the world, I believe, and has had more or less relations with the Germans. He has never disclosed what his profits were on the nickel ore that he took from this country over to Wales and refined, and which may be equally charged with these precious metals. That is the position of affairs in Canada, and shows almost an absolute monopoly not only of nickel but of platinum. Platinum is worth over \$100 an ounce, five times the value of gold, and was an essential war metal—the only source of it was in Canada. We have the mines, but these companies take the ore out of the country and refine it, and that is not a national policy, and it is not good business. I want to ask the minister who is in charge of the Mines Department why he, and his expensive department, have not been able to tell the people of Canada what the precious metals content is of these ores