

with the Hon. Wallace Nesbitt, K.C., on behalf of and representing that nickle corporation. But, Sir, if more proof is wanted that there is a connection between this Government and the German interests that sought the nickle in Canada to manufacture into munitions to destroy the Canadian soldiers, all I need cite to the House is the fact that, when an investigation was demanded by the members of this Parliament, both Liberals and Conservatives, as to whether or not Canadian nickle was being shipped through the United States to Germany, the gentlemen appointed for the purpose of conducting the investigation in New York was Mr. Graham A. Bell, the comptroller of the Department of Railways and Canals. We have every confidence in the ability of Mr. Bell as a comptroller of the Department of Railways and Canals. But when it came to holding an inquiry into the operations of the German nickle trust and its associate companies in the United States and Canada, one would imagine, if this Government were sincere in their desire to get at the bottom of things, they would have selected another gentleman instead of Mr. Bell to carry on the investigation.

Mr. STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. The matter which the hon. gentleman is discussing is not relevant to the question before the House.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Rainville): I thought the hon. gentleman was getting away from the subject before the House, and I was going to ask him if he proposed to use the statements he is making as an argument against the third reading of the Bill.

Mr. KYTE: I have sometimes the habit of getting away from the matter under discussion, and I also have a habit of coming back to it. I propose coming back to it now. I made this statement to the House for the purpose of showing that, if this Government is anxious to follow the precedent set by Australia in matters of legislation, it is unfortunate they did not follow the precedent set by Australia in dealing with the German interests in that country. I pointed out that the War-Times Election Act in Australia was passed by a non-party Government. I am not sure as to the date on which that Act was passed, but if it was not passed by a coalition government, it has to be enforced and applied by a coalition government. Non-partyism is the very essence of success in war measures. The Government of Australia may be justi-

[Mr. Kyte.]

fied in passing the War-Time Elections Act which has been referred to, because ever since the war broke the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia has been concerned exclusively with the passing of war measures. That is not the case with respect to this Government. While we have been uniting our energies for the purpose of carrying on the war, and devising legislation best calculated to direct all our resources and energies to the carrying on of the war, the Government has not been content to limit its legislative activities to war measures. This Government has placed party legislation before war legislation for the last three years. If this Government had confined their legislation exclusively to war measures, they might be justified under the circumstances in passing such a disfranchising Act as we have under consideration at the present time. Instead of confining the legislation to war measures, this Government in the session of 1915, passed an Act for the purpose of increasing the tariff and reducing the British preference. That was an issue upon which the parties in this House might well divide, as parties in this country are divided upon this question. They passed the income tax during the present session of Parliament, which is a substitution for the excess war profits tax, which has been in operation for the last two years. Party opinion is divided upon the wisdom of terminating the war profits taxation at the end of the present year, and substituting therefor an income tax, which will relieve the friends of the Government who have made huge profits during the war of a large proportion of the taxation which ought to go to swell the revenues of the country. The electors of this country who are disfranchised under this legislation will be debarred from passing judgment upon these party measures which the Government passed during the last three years, under the guise of war measures. Again, the electors who will be disfranchised by this Bill will be prevented upon expressing their opinion on other legislation which has been passed by the Government. There is the legislation with reference to the Canadian Northern railway, which involves an addition to our burden of some \$600,000,000, and a payment of at least \$30,000,000 at a time when the resources of our country and the ingenuity of the Minister of Finance are taxed to the utmost to procure money for necessary war purposes.

Then there is the legislation which transferred the Quebec and Saguenay railway to