

evading cruisers on the broad ocean and passing under the blockading fleet, the Deutschland had safely reached Hamburg and delivered to the German authorities its precious cargo of Canadian nickel. They now have the certainty that at this very moment, Canadian nickel is being turned into German armaments to fight the allied forces, and before them is the prospect that Canadian soldiers may be killed with shells manufactured of Canadian nickel.

This prospect, however, does not seem to have in any way disturbed the serene composure of either the Dominion Government or the Provincial government of Ontario. Both have remained singularly supine to this new condition of things—a

condition exasperating to everybody else.

Mr. Dewar vigorously assailed both the Dominion and the Provincial governments. To prohibition he paid but scant attention. It was the nickel situation, the danger of it, the indifference, the criminal indifference, as he termed it, of the two governments, which he brought to the attention of the electors of Toronto, and that situation influenced them to their independent action.

The result in South-West Toronto is evidence that the people are aroused and that they will not be trifled with. Its immediate lesson is that the nickel question must be faced and settled, and the only solution is that Canadian nickel shall not be supplied to our enemies.

TORY OUTRAGES LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HIGH COST OF LIVING.

THE High cost of living is becoming a very serious matter indeed to the ordinary man with a family to support, and consequently it is a very live and important subject of discussion among the people. A hundred and one reasons are assigned for the increase in the prices of the necessities of life, but strange to say some of the more important have been over-looked. We refer particularly to the additional protection of $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ given to the manufacturers of food stuffs, shortly after War broke out, under the guise of a War tax. The imposition of this mis-named War tax of $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ per cent on imported goods, means as respects food stuffs—the essentials of life—a **molehill of revenue for the Dominion Treasury and a mountain of burdens to the people**, in the shape of enhanced prices on food stuffs manufactured in Canada, without benefit to the Treasury. In short the Finance Minister, Sir Thomas White, placed an additional weapon in the hands of the large meat packers and cannery to extract $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ per cent more money from the consumer.

Let us reason this out: The tax is in addition to the ordinary customs rate of duty, which in all conscience, is high enough, and it applies to all prepared food stuffs as well as raw materials in the shape of cattle, hogs, sheep, grain, vegetables, fish and fruits. Now as every Canadian knows we are a food-producing country. We can, and practically do produce all our requirements for home consumption; indeed we have a surplus for export. The importations, therefore, whether of raw materials or finished food stuffs are trifling, and, consequently, the War tax does not bring in much revenue. Then, as is well known, the meat packers, cannery and middlemen being large buyers, practically control the prices paid to the farmers for their produce, and, therefore, it is not at all likely that the farmer gets any benefit from the additional tax on these articles. **But the large meat packers, cannery, manufacturers of cereal foods and other manufacturers of food stuffs knowing that imported food stuffs cannot come into the country without paying the tax are at liberty to increase their prices to the amount of the tax on all food stuffs manufactured in Canada.** And so it will be seen that this brilliant (?) piece of legis-

lation by the Finance Minister, under the cruel disguise of War necessities, is not only a farce but a criminal outrage on the common people.

Another reason for the increased cost of living and likewise an illustration of the lack of heart displayed by Sir Thomas White in dealing with the common people, is the granting of additional protection to the Canadian Sugar Refiners to the extent of 17 cents per hundred pounds, since the War broke out. This little scheme was skilfully worked. The sugar duties were increased to get additional revenue for War purposes, and in the manipulation of the schedules the Finance Minister managed to sneak to the Canadian Refiner the additional protection referred to, without a word of explanation to Parliament or the public. The sugar schedules in the Customs Tariff are of a complicated character, and it was a comparatively easy matter to put the steal over. When it is understood that over 700,000,000 pounds of sugar are consumed in Canada every year, the extent of the gift of 17 cents per hundred pounds additional protection to the Canadian Refiner can be intelligently estimated. It amounts to about \$1,350,000 additional per annum taken out of the pockets of the people by the sugar Barons. If this is not a political outrage and a deliberate robbery of the people, we do not know how to classify it. The profits to-day in sugar refining in Canada are shameful and the common people are paying the piper "How long, Oh Lord! How long" will they have to continue to do so?

The United States Nickel Company which controls the nickel deposits of Canada, and which has been earning since the War broke out at the rate of \$10,000,000 a year profit, is surely a fit subject for reasonable taxation for War purposes. Nevertheless it is alleged that the Ontario government let them off with a tax of only \$40,000 a year. The Parish Council politicians who are unfortunately in control of the administration of Ontario, would rather make the poor people pay a cent extra to see the movies than tread on the toes of the nickel plutocrats.