

as I believe they do, we should compel the companies that operate here to disclose the fact. I hope the time will come when Canada, with its expensive metallurgical and mineralogical department, will make it possible for the refinement of our nickel in our own country and ascertain the contents of these ores, not only as regards nickel but as regards other precious metals, and also undertake the distribution of it. Time after time public attention has been called to this matter, and the Opposition is just as derelict as the Government may have been. The same thing happened in the province of Ontario in connection with nickel. A clever Order in Council was drawn one day which gave the absolute title to these nickel mines to foreign companies, when, as I contend, they should have been kept on lease. Now, Mr. Chairman, I know that you are going to call me to order, but I have been replying to the minister. I have called the attention of the Government to something in regard to which the people of Canada will demand a satisfactory explanation.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Mr. Chairman, I cannot allow the remarks of my hon. friend to pass unchallenged. He has made what I regard as a tissue of misstatements. I ask him whether, as a responsible member of this House he thinks that any good national purpose is served by his calling in question the good faith of the British Government merely upon rumours which he says he has not substantiated, and upon revelations which he says are about to be made but of which he confesses he knows absolutely nothing.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN: No, he doesn't say—

The CHAIRMAN: Order. This debate shows how far the Committee may wander when it once leaves the clause or item under consideration. Probably the Chairman is primarily responsible for not having called the hon. member (Mr. Maclean) to order earlier in the debate, but I trust that hon. members will now keep strictly to the subject under consideration.

Mr. McKENZIE: There is one point about that matter, Mr. Chairman—

The CHAIRMAN: I have ruled that no discussion may take place concerning what occurred during the war.

Mr. McKENZIE: Is this concerning the war? It has been disclosed that metal which is classed under the head of copper

or nickel goes out of this country. The hon. member for South York says that other metals of greater value are included. Are we not inquiring into that question?

The CHAIRMAN: No. This item has nothing to do with any metal which leaves the country. It merely covers the importation of nickel in bars and rods, strips, sheets or plates.

On item 384a being again called:

Mr. BUREAU: The member for Red Deer asked a question of the Minister of Finance as to why these articles were put free on the list, and the minister replied that it was to give effect to an Order in Council which had been previously passed. I have not the same faith in the Order in Council as has the hon. member (Mr. Clark). This Order in Council does not satisfy me. Will the minister go further and tell us what inspired it?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: The object of the Order in Council was to promote the galvanizing of iron and steel bands, etc., in Canada, which would otherwise have been done outside of this country if the raw materials mentioned were not admitted free. The Order in Council, which is under the general law, therefore, provided for the free admission of the articles mentioned when imported for use in the manufacture of the finished products. We are now embodying in the statute what has been provided for by Order in Council for the purpose of ensuring the galvanizing in Canada of that which would otherwise be galvanized outside of Canada.

Mr. BUREAU: What is the date of the Order in Council?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: January 19, 1919.

Item agreed to.

Item 386:

Rolled iron or steel, and cast steel, in bars, bands, hoop, scroll, strip, sheet or plate, of any size, thickness or width, and steel blanks for the manufacture of milling cutters when of greater value than three and one-half cents per pound.....7½ p.c. 12½ p.c. 12½ p.c.

Mr. BUREAU: What is the object of this addition?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: To bring it into conformity with item 384, which we have changed.

Mr. LEMIEUX: What is the object of the amendment?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Item 386 of the present tariff is as follows: