

going so far as is proposed in disfranchising a large element of our population. But I am able to argue from other circumstances and conditions existing in Australia that this Parliament and this Government are not justified in passing legislation of the character which we are now considering, even although Australia has thought proper to do so. To begin with, in Australia there is a coalition government, both parties are united for the purpose of carrying on the war. When conscription was first proposed in Australia, such a loud protest was heard among the people of that Commonwealth that the Government receded from its position, and instead of passing a military service law such as we passed in this Parliament, they consulted the people by a means of a referendum, and compulsory military service was defeated. Thereafter a coalition government was formed upon the basis of no conscription, and that Government is in control of affairs in the Commonwealth to-day. Again, the Commonwealth of Australia is populated by 98 per cent British-born; only 2 per cent of the total population of Australia are foreign-born. The Commonwealth of Australia never invited Germans and Austrians to become citizens. We in Canada are in a different position; we held out inducements to citizens of the Central Empire to come to this country, take up homesteads, become a part and parcel of our population and enjoy the full measure of citizenship. As I said, Australia did not ask for immigrants from the central countries of Europe, and only 2 per cent of her population are foreign-born. But there was a small element of the population of Australia that came from Germany. They came to represent the Krupp interest that established itself in Australia for the purpose of getting control of the total metal output of that Commonwealth. It is well known that at the outbreak of the war the Government of Australia found that the total mineral product of Australia was controlled through German residents in Australia representing the Krupp interests in Germany.

The first thing the Government of Australia did after the outbreak of war was to dissolve the corporation which controlled the metal products of Australia, and to take possession of it, in the interest of the Commonwealth and of the Allies. It is not, therefore, strange that a very strong feeling of antipathy should have developed in Australia against the limited numbers of Germans who were citizens of that

Commonwealth. They were there, not as citizens of the Commonwealth, but as representatives of the Krupp interests in Germany, and spies of the German Government. It is not astonishing that, under those circumstances, a coalition government in Australia, or a non-party government would have been able to disfranchise those men who were notoriously alien enemies, without protest from any section of the community. But, as I stated a moment ago, that element of the population was exceeding small.

I referred to the drastic action taken by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia to prevent German interests from continuing to control the metal product of Australia. How differently has that matter been treated by this Government. We know that, ever since the outbreak of the war, it has been alleged on the floor of this House of Commons, as it was alleged in the legislature of Ontario and in the press, that German interests in control of a certain mining corporation, having power to operate and control property in the province of Ontario, were shipping their nickel product to the United States, and across to Germany. It is also well known that, up to the very hour that the United States Government declared war against Germany, the underseas freighter Deutschland was carrying cargoes of nickel from New London, Conn., across to Germany. It is very well known that in 1916 no less than 764 tons of nickel was shipped from Canada by the United States to Germany. While the German interests sought the use of our nickel to manufacture munitions to destroy the Canadian soldiers on the battle line, this Government took no action. Why? Because it is well known that gentlemen intimately associated with this Government were large shareholders in the company that was interested in shipping the nickel from Canada to the United States, and thence to Germany. It is well known that the present Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Cochrane), while a member of the Ontario Government, entered into an agreement on behalf of the Government with this foreign nickel trust, to fix the rate of taxation which would be levied upon that corporation at a contemptibly small amount, notwithstanding the fact that the profits of that corporation amounted to from twelve to fifteen million dollars a year. Not only that, but the agreement was to extend over the years 1912 to 1916, and in 1916 the present Premier of the province of Ontario renewed that agreement