

if, when this war broke out, we had prevented our Canadian nickel going to Germany, prevented them from using it in making battleships, big guns, small guns, and rifles, we should have been in a position almost to cripple Germany. But we were not in that position until a month or so ago, when after I brought this matter up in the House the Government stopped, to a certain extent, the export of nickel to the United States. But the Government should go further. This war will be over, I hope, in the near future; it will be over before very long, anyway, and we could take this step now as a war measure. Now is the time, when we have an absolute monopoly of nickel, to see that it shall be refined in Canada, and if all our nickel was refined in this country we should be able to control its export in time of war. Assistance of this kind could be given by the Government at a very small cost, and I trust the Minister of Finance will take the matter up with his colleagues, and see if the Government cannot make a beginning along the lines I have suggested.

Mr. R. F. GREEN (Kootenay): I desire to say just a word or two in connection with the proposal for giving a bounty on zinc produced in the Dominion of Canada. Some twelve years ago, I think it was, the Government then in power, under the leadership of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, were wise enough to introduce a measure granting a bounty on lead produced within the Dominion. The giving of that bounty has had a very beneficial effect on the lead industry of our country. It has given the producer the assurance of stability so far as the market is concerned, and it has not cost the Government a great deal. If my memory serves me right, the amount that was originally set aside for bounty purposes was \$5,000,000, and the period within which it could be earned was five years. At the end of the five years during which the lead producer was probably experiencing the worst time since the bounty was first given, something like half the \$5,000,000 was still unearned. The period was extended for another five years, and at the end of that time there was still left just a little short of \$1,000,000. The present Government extended the period still further, until the balance of the bounty should have been earned. I repeat, the bounty has been of great benefit to the lead industry in this country. The Government's promise to give a bounty upon zinc has also had a bene-

ficial effect, enabling zinc producers to establish works for the production of zinc in Canada. I trust the Government will see its way clear at the expiration of this period, if not before, to devise some scheme to enable us to establish zinc production works in Canada large enough to refine all the zinc produced within the country. When those works are established we shall, if they are of the proper kind, be able to compete in the markets of the world. We are producing to-day a certain amount of refined zinc in Canada, and will continue to produce it just as long as the prices remain high, say over eight cents a pound. I am sorry to say, however, the present method of producing zinc in Canada is not so economical as the method in which it is produced in the United States. It has been produced in the past in the United States, Belgium and Germany, by what is generally known as the Belgian process.

Our zinc has been produced by the electrolytic process, which will always be more expensive than the Belgian process. The Belgian process is the cheapest known process in the world to-day. As I understand it, the zinc is driven off in fumes; those fumes are gathered in long flues of one description or another, and the old bag process enters very largely into it, the flues being choked with ordinary bagging, in which the zinc is collected as the fumes cool. That is a very economical way, and will always be cheaper than the electrolytic process. I hope the Government will find some way of assisting the refining of zinc in this country, so that eventually all the zinc we produce will be refined in Canada, and I trust with the hon. member for Assiniboia that the same policy will be followed with regard to nickel, copper and other metals. The hon. gentleman mentioned that producers at Cobalt lost when a certain percentage of different ores were present in their first raw product. I am afraid that will always enter into the question. Most of the lead, silver, zinc and other ores produced in my part of the country were at one time treated at the large smelters in the United States, where they were treated on the same basis as the United States ores, and the situation, so far as zinc ores are concerned, is very similar to that outlined by the hon. member for Assiniboia. I might say that our lead ores contain a certain percentage of zinc, iron, silver-lead, and other metals, and any of these lead ores containing over 10 per cent of zinc are penalized to the extent of 50 cents a unit per ton, and as