

ing concerns in the United States saved all these by-products and got an extra profit out of them over and above the large amount that they charged the owner of the ore for taking out the silver. In most cases the ore would run from 1,500 to 6,000 ounces of silver to the ton, but the owner only got 93 or 94 per cent of the silver, and he did not get anything at all for the by-products in the ore, which in many cases amounted to \$5 or \$10 per ton.

I would like to take this opportunity to point out that something should be done to improve this situation. It is a matter worthy of consideration as to whether the Government should not give some assistance to put the necessary plants up in Canada where all Canadian ores could be treated without having to send them abroad. The same thing applies to nickel, only very very much more so. I

4 p.m. was taken to task in this House because I make the statement some weeks ago that our nickel ore produced by the Canada Copper Company, a subsidiary of the American Nickel Company, was sent in the form of matte to New Jersey and there refined by the International Nickel Company, which is largely a German concern, and that a great deal of our nickel was going to our enemies during this period of war. I pointed out that we had no possible control and that we could not control the nickel once the ore, or matte, went outside the boundaries of Canada. The hon. the Solicitor General (Mr. Meighen) took me to task for the statements I had made, saying that they were all wrong and that I was wrong in particular as to the amount of money that the International Nickel Company was making. My hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Sir Thomas White), a few days after that, confirmed to a large extent my words, because he showed that the International Nickel Company was making twice as much as the Solicitor General had stated. I want to draw the attention of the House to something that was said in the British House of Commons on this subject at that time. I have here a sessional paper containing speeches delivered in the British House of Commons dated January 18, 1916. I want to read one or two short extracts from a speech made by Mr. Hewins, who is a very prominent member of the British House, and who was a member of a commission appointed to look into this matter some time ago. Here is what he says in part about the way in which our ores are handled:

[Mr. Turriff.]

Let me take one important question which plays a very important part in the whole scheme of German finance—I mean the control of our raw material and especially of the shipment of the ore produced in the British Empire. I do not wish to go into any lengthy details about this important scheme, but whether you take the zinc concentrates in Australia, nickel in Canada, or the whole series of metals, I am really giving way no secret when I say they are virtually controlled by German syndicates and have been for years. One of the most effective branches from that point of view of German activity for many years past, in support of the European system which I have described, has been to provide for the security of her manufactures by securing this control, and everybody knows at the present time that, if you once smash the power of these German syndicates, you inflict a most severe blow, not only upon the economic power of Germany, but in particular on those financial methods which they have applied and still apply to support their policy.

I believe the Government are fully acquainted with the development of this important question in the Empire. If I am not mistaken, as long ago as last December twelve months, the Australian Commonwealth approached the Government on the subject. I am speaking entirely from memory, but it certainly was something like that. In Canada measures have been taken in regard to this particular case, and I do suggest that one of the first things the Government might do is not to act alone but to act in consultation and collaboration with the Dominion Government to see that these resources of the British Empire, of which in many cases we have almost a monopoly, are no longer exploited in the interests of our enemies, and we should tell the Germans quite frankly that this state of things is going to cease once and for all. I agree no nation can say, or would dream of saying, that we will for all time make a monopoly of the raw materials which we produce in our Empire. We cannot say that but I think we are entitled to say that the resources of the British Empire shall be held, controlled, manipulated and used by Britishers first and foremost. Very few things would excite more interest and enthusiasm in the Empire than a definite resolve on the part of the Government that at once and forthwith steps shall be taken to secure that result.

If that does not confirm every word, and more than every word, that I spoke in regard to our nickel going to the United States, its going to Germany, and its being controlled by Germans, then I do not know where you could get more confirmation. I thought that when we were on this subject it would be a good time to bring this matter to the attention of the Government. I am doing it partly for the purpose of proving that what I said a month ago was practically correct, but more particularly, that a better state of affairs might be brought about in Canada, so that in the event of another such war as this breaking out we should not be in the position we are in to-day. Minerals are of the utmost importance in manufacturing war material of different kinds, and