

Mr. ROWELL: —in relation to Great Britain and the Dominions. We must either give that word a new content, a new meaning, or use a word that is more appropriate to the present conditions. Personally, I prefer the phrase "the British Commonwealth."

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

At six o'clock the Committee took recess.

After Recess.

The Committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. N. W. ROWELL (Resuming): Just before the committee rose, I was referring to the resolution passed by the Imperial War Conference relating to the exclusion of Germany from the non-ferrous metal industry. As the House will have observed, all I have attempted to do is to report the proceedings of the Conference rather than to discuss the questions which were raised there and discussed at length. The limits of time make it necessary for me to confine myself to what was actually done. But may I be permitted to observe, in connection with this and the other resolutions relating to Imperial resources the questions involved assumed peculiar importance during the period of the war. Germany had not only succeeded, in the twenty-five years preceding the war, in peacefully penetrating, industrially, all the countries of the world, but had secured a grip upon the metal industries of the world, particularly the non-ferrous metal industries, which gave her a commanding position at the time the war broke out; and the object of this resolution was to prevent so far as possible, a repetition of that situation in the future. Hon. members will observe that so far as Canada is concerned—and this would apply to some of the other dominions also—the matter is one not easy to deal with by legislation, because of the distribution of legislative powers between the Dominion and the provinces. The provinces, controlling their own lands, control the development of the mining properties within the provinces.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Has my hon. friend in mind any properties in Canada which were controlled by the Germans and were utilized for war purposes? There were a number of such cases in Australia.

Mr. ROWELL: I was referring to the general principle involved. So far as Canada is concerned, this resolution is receiving consideration at the hands of the

Minister of Mines to see what action, if any, Canada should take in order to give effect to it.

Mr. BUREAU: May I ask if the Conference had in mind, at the time this resolution was passed, the control of the nickel mines in Canada?

Mr. ROWELL: The nickel mines in Canada constitute, of course, a very important and essential raw material, essential not only to Canada but to the Empire as a whole, and I had intended making some reference to that on a later resolution.

Another question which was dealt with by the conference, in which perhaps our interest is less direct than in the resolution I have just mentioned, was the freeing of the industries of the Empire from dependence on German products, such as dyes. This resolution, No. 10, reads as follows:

The Conference takes note of the action taken and contemplated by His Majesty's Government with a view to freeing the industry of the United Kingdom from dependence on German dyestuffs, and recommends the Governments of the Empire to consider immediately what steps can be taken to co-operate with the efforts of the Imperial Government to promote the successful development of the dye industry in the British Empire, and so to avoid enemy domination over our essential industries.

The House will recall the unfortunate position in which Great Britain, the Empire and the United States found themselves when war broke out. They had to depend on Germany for dye stuffs and other essential materials and undoubtedly Great Britain has made up her mind that she will not be caught again in the same position, but will endeavour to see that there are developed within the limits of the Empire those industries which are essential to the maintenance of the larger industrial life of the country. I believe steps are being taken by Great Britain to give effect to this resolution.

One of the most important questions considered by the conference was the control of raw material.

Mr. JOSEPH READ: Did the non-ferrous resolution contemplate the pooling of all the metals of Canada and the Empire, thereby putting us out of commission as a separate entity?

Mr. ROWELL: No, it did not contemplate interfering in any way with our liberty of action. It was recommended that all portions of the Empire should take action similar to that taken by Great Britain, in order to ensure that those industries should not fall into enemy control, but be preserved under the control of citi-