

be found only in Canada. That thing has never been settled. It has got to be settled, and it is one of the things that will have to be settled in the same way as the German control of zinc. I call the minister's attention to it—he may or may not explain it—but it has got to be settled, and I want to know whether the minister who has control of mines will bring down to this House any letter or circular that he has received from the British Government in connection with non-ferrous metals, of which nickel is one.

I may tell the Government that I am going into this matter later on, and the best place to fight it out may be in the country amongst the people. I never saw so much feeling in Canada as I have found to exist in connection with this nickel question. It is a shame that we should allow to come free into this country nickel which has been smelted by companies outside of Canada, who do not pay any business profit taxes to the Dominion treasury, who will not disclose the precious metal contents of the ores they take out of this country and who have renigged on every occasion as regards the payment of every just tax imposed upon them by the province of Ontario.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: A certain part only of what my hon. friend has said is relevant to the item under discussion, and I confess I do not pretend to be able to follow him with regard to many things he has said. He has put forward rumours that he has heard and things that he has read, but there is before this Committee nothing definite to which reply can be made. The item under consideration is No. 356, which provides for the free admission into Canada of nickel in bars and rods, strips, sheets or plates. There is no change in that item; it has been in the tariff, and the reason why nickel has been on the free list is because nickel is not manufactured in Canada. I do not see the reason at the present time for putting a duty upon nickel which has hitherto been admitted free, when there are under construction in Canada large nickel refineries at Port Colborne and Deschenes Falls, which will provide for all our requirements and also for a large quantity of nickel for export. Those who have established these industries are not asking for any duty upon nickel, and I do not follow my hon. friend when he speaks about the national policy requiring us to put a duty upon nickel which has hitherto borne no duty, which is to be manufactured here to a quantity away beyond the needs

of this country and upon which the manufacturers ask no duty. That is the position as regards the item in question. My hon. friend has put out vague statements as to the Government's being at fault with regard to permitting the exportation of nickel from this country during the war. The Dominion Government, from the very beginning of this war, has worked in the closest possible accord and understanding with the British Government as regards nickel.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN: The same thing was done in Australia and what was the result?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: There is this difference between myself and my hon. friend: that I have absolute confidence in the British Government.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN: Why were firms associated with members of the British Government fined?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: I do not for one moment follow my hon. friend when he challenges the integrity of the Prime Minister of the British Empire, Mr. Lloyd George, in connection with this matter.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN: I do challenge it as far as the supervision of nickel is concerned, and I do so on my responsibility as a member—

Sir THOMAS WHITE: I do not agree with my hon. friend, and I very much deprecate his doing it. When I was in England in the fall of 1916—there was agitation then about nickel in this country—I consulted personally with members of the British Government, amongst others with Mr. Bonar Law, in whom also I have the most absolute and implicit confidence, and I say that the Dominion Government's action throughout has been absolutely unquestioned and approved by the British Government, which was our senior partner in fighting this war. Suppose that in 1914 the Dominion Government had shut off the exportation of nickel matte from this country. Great Britain was pouring out millions of dollars into the United States for munitions and other supplies, the manufacture of which required nickel. Would we have been justified, after the declaration of war, in preventing the manufacturers of munitions required by the British Government from obtaining the matte with which to manufacture nickel? There were no refineries in this country.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN: Why were there not?