

It seems to me that this is an occasion when this chamber should assert the principles which they have asserted ever since Confederation and which so far as I know have never been violated in such a way as is sought to do under section 374.

I need not point out too the serious effects the passing of this legislation would have upon financial interests of Canada.

If the persons who have been exploiting the schemes of the Hydro-Electric System, and its attendant municipalities, and now endeavouring to secure this pernicious legislation, were to ask the right to buy out at a fair price any company which stands in the way of their schemes there would be some semblance of fair dealing, and this might sometimes be desirable or even necessary. This, however, is not their policy. They prefer a destructive German method, namely: to obtain legislation which reduces the value of their quarry's property to a "scrap" basis and then take it at their own price, or else wait until a lingering death puts an end to its existence.

MARRIAGE OF CANADIANS WITH ALIENS.

The last census of the Dominion of Canada reveals the fact that in the year 1911 more than one-tenth of our population was of alien origin (1). In the City of Montreal the foreign-born numbered 43,138, in Toronto 33,131, Winnipeg 32,950, and Vancouver 27,713—twenty-seven per cent. of its total inhabitants (2). From the time of this enumeration until the outbreak of the war immigration steadily increased, and by a special census of the Prairie Provinces, taken in June, 1916, it was ascertained that of the 273,998 persons between the ages of twenty and thirty-four living in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, 111,304, or more than two-fifths, were of alien origin (3). A large proportion of these foreigners remained unnaturalized, and in Toronto, in 1911, only twenty-seven per cent. had become citizens (4). As

(1) Special report on the foreign-born population, issued by the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, 1915, p. 7.

(2) *Ibid.*, p. 34.

(3) Bulletin issued by the Department of Trade and Commerce, p. 1.

(4) Special report on the foreign-born population, p. 36.