

ent in it have disappeared. It is known now that the International Nickel Company was controlled in the United States by a voting trust, but nobody has ever told the people of Canada or of the Empire who were behind this voting trust.

Mr. BUREAU: Who do you think it was?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN: I think it goes back to Germany.

Mr. BUREAU: Hear, hear.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN: I think Sir Alfred Mond—and I am speaking now of a member of the British Government—I think it may be found out that he has a big hand in the control of the International Nickel Company. He got the privilege of taking out the raw ore of our country to the United States and treating it there, and he also got the privilege of taking it over to Great Britain and treating it there, and yet he does not contribute one cent towards the revenues of this country. Did anybody see the prospectus that the International Nickel Company put out in London recently, I think about eight months ago, showing the enormous profits they had made, and how they control this essential industry? I would not take the word of any member of the British Government in connection with this matter. Such things were disclosed during the war as to German control of these essential metals, that man after man had to get out of public life in England, and man after man had to change his name and declare himself to be a British citizen. The selling agent of all the world's nickel, including the product of the Canadian mines, was discovered to be an alien enemy; and the British Government refused to do any more business with the men who were the selling agents of the products of our Canadian nickel mines, for they were found to be alien enemies. I refer to the firm of Merton and Company.

In spite of the fact of immense stores of these metals being in Canada, and only in Canada, we cannot get a national policy in regard to them. I want to know why, and I am going to make that an issue in this country. I have followed it up, but I have made no great headway yet. However, I am going to follow it up until certain facts in possession of the Government in Washington and in possession of the Government in London—and I believe that our Governments here know something about it, although so far no action has been taken—I repeat, I am going to follow the matter up until those facts are disclosed to

[Mr. W. F. Maclean.]

the public? Why has no action been taken? I intend to return to this question. The people of Canada, and especially those who fought in the war, will not be satisfied until they know the facts.

Even our Canadian nickel was used to face German bullets, and we know that the German undersea boats that came into New York and other American harbours loaded up with Canadian nickel. We have not protected ourselves. I will not take the assurance of the British Government, even if it is made by Mr. Lloyd George, the Prime Minister of England and head of the Conference now sitting in Paris, if he says that we have taken every measure to control these metals. The fact is that neither the British Government nor this Government took the measures that should have been taken to prevent our nickel reaching the enemy during the war. Intrigue ran through all the metal industries during the war, and enemy influence was in control. Australia, to her great credit, caught these Germans red handed in control of Australian spelter and zinc, and her Government passed a law immediately and took over and administered the mines. I proposed in this House at the beginning of the war that we should take over our Canadian mines and administer them not only for the interest of Canada but for the interest of the Empire.

The CHAIRMAN: I must call the hon. member to order. The speech he is now making, although it would have been in order upon the Budget, is certainly not relevant to the item or clause under discussion, which concerns the admission into Canada free of nickel in bars and rods, strips, sheets or plates. The hon. member will be in order in giving his reasons why this article should not be admitted free into Canada; but he is not in order in making an attack on the Government for what occurred during the recent war.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN: I respect what the Chairman has said. But I say we should not allow this nickel to enter free of duty until we compel the United States to take its duty off our nickel. We are letting in free nickel refined in the United States, but the United States Government put a tax on our nickel. The very men who control these ores, after they got the right to ship them out of Canada to refineries of their own in the United States, went straight to Congress and got a prohibitive duty put upon pure nickel coming into that country from Canada, made out of ores that could