

say this: that if this Government had the slightest suspicion that any of our nickel was going to our enemies, you can rest assured that any action that it is in the power of this House to take will be quickly taken."

#### Only Two Sources of Nickel.

Coming to the question of the refining of nickel in the Province, the Premier remarked it was often said that Ontario had a monopoly of the nickel of the world. At the present time Ontario and New Caledonia controlled the markets of the world by reason of the cheapness with which they were able to produce the metal with the present method of refining and the plant now employed. But that nickel did exist in other parts of the world was well known, but it was a question of cheapness of production. He was informed that if all the nickel mines of Ontario and New Caledonia were closed down entirely there are ample deposits of nickel to supply all the needs of Germany and the other countries. Although a considerable proportion of the nickel produced did go into armor-plate and war material, a very much larger percentage went into industrial works. The other countries where nickel was produced were Norway, Germany, Austria, Britain, and in recent years rich de-

posits were said to exist in Russia, Madagascar and South Africa.

#### The Imperial Aspect.

Mr. Rowell submitted that they should have the correspondence in possession of the Government which showed the precautions which were being taken to prevent the supply of nickel going to our alien enemies. The speaker also urged that the Commission to be appointed should take into consideration the Imperial aspect as well as the commercial.

Premier Hearst—My hon. friend can rest assured the fullest inquiry will be made from every aspect.

Mr. C. M. Bowman (West Bruce), showing the interests of the Liberals in the nickel supply of the Province, pointed out that in 1891 Hon. Mr. Hardy, Commissioner of Crown Lands, secured the passage of an order in Council offering to the Imperial Government absolute control of all the nickel deposits in the Province not heretofore granted. The Imperial Government did not see fit to accept the offer.

Mr. Rowell's motion was carried.

#### Validating Patriotic Grants.

Hon. I. B. Lucas, Attorney-General, introduced the Government bill to validate grants made by municipal corporations to the various patriotic funds. The bill enumerates the various objects to which grants have been made, such as the Canadian Patriotic Fund, Canadian Red Cross, Belgian Relief, Home Guard, insurance of the lives of soldiers and local grants for the aid of dependents. It provides for the issue of ten-year debentures, or a simpler way of issuing a municipal promissory note for five years with equalized annual payments.

In the absence of Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex), Mr. Rowell introduced a bill to give the municipal franchise to married women owning property. The two leaders exchanged a smile over this which seemed to indicate, "Now, what are you going to do?"

#### OUR ANNUAL ACCOUNTING.

Ontario's Public Accounts, brought down yesterday, show a material increase in debt and expenditure out of proportion to the growth of the Province. A grand total of expenditure, \$20,076,461 for the past fiscal year, appears in contrast to \$16,091,942 for the year previous. A large item in the difference is the Hydro-electric Power Commission, which obtained \$4,270,000 as new capital for extensions, compared with \$1,500,000. Out of ordinary receipts of \$8,740,687 the Dominion Government collected and paid as subsidies \$2,396,378. From the sale of assets through the Department of Lands, Forests, and Mines the receipts were \$2,340,657. The corporation tax yielded \$1,386,308, and the succession duty \$1,196,818. The great source of income was borrowing. By inscribed stock the Government obtained \$3,902,994, by the Ontario Canadian loan \$1,001,862, by Treasury bills \$3,413,042, and by the second Ontario Canadian loan \$205,906. Of this borrowing \$486,666 was used to retire maturing Treasury bills. The Province has now direct liabilities, which the Public Accounts compiler did not total up, of about \$40,405,000, and indirect, made up largely of the Mackenzie & Mann guarantee, \$9,553,000.

The process of spending and borrowing can continue to increase even at the rate of advancement established in recent years without in any way endangering the stability of the Province. But the mere fact that by the possession of vast resources we can safely indulge in prodigality does not justify us in doing so. Beset by the necessities of extravagance, the Government will devise new methods of obtaining money, and will thus gradually diminish and finally end the commercial and industrial advantage long enjoyed through exemption from taxation. The policy of costly subtlety in preference to less burdensome directness will naturally be adopted. But, in spite of the most craftily devised methods of hiding the connection between extravagance and the depression it inevitably entails, the links between cause and effect cannot be successfully concealed.