

at all; I simply wish to point out that the intimation then went throughout Canada, whether authorized or not, that when the provinces got into line it would be time enough for the Dominion Government to take action. That was the sentiment of those opposed to prohibition at that time. Now that the provinces are in line, they say: "Oh, let us leave this question to the provinces." But that is not the whole story. A provincial government has a very limited jurisdiction in the matter of prohibition; it can only prohibit the sale of liquor within its boundaries; it cannot prohibit the importation of liquor into private houses, nor can it prohibit the manufacture of liquor within the province. It is therefore a very meagre jurisdiction that the provinces possess as to prohibition. I am also informed that the Governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, when they met not long ago, passed a resolution instructing the premiers of those provinces to ask the Government of Canada for Dominion-wide prohibition. Whether they have approached the Government I do not know, and I have not had time to ascertain, but this I do know, that throughout Canada, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, there is a demand for implementing legislation on this subject. "Implementing" is a good word. It was used in this House a few years ago with great effect. There is, I repeat, a demand throughout this country for implementing legislation to give effect to the will of the people in those provinces. I am not wedded to any particular manner in which the Government should solve this question, nor do I stick to the exact wording of my resolution. There is, I think, a desire on the part of those behind this resolution—and they form a very large portion of the population—to give the Government a free hand in framing legislation to give effect to their wishes. At the same time I contend that the argument that we should leave this question to the provinces is not a sound one, nor one that should be given any consideration.

I have detained the House at a greater length than I intended, and I have possibly wearied you, Mr. Speaker, by reading from the opinions of others. But I quoted these for the purpose of reinforcing my own views with the opinions of men in a position to know, and whose voice I think will be heeded by this House. Democracy, I repeat, is on trial at the present time. This war means that democracy will be established or it will fall, and I believe it is up to us in Canada—in my estimation

the most democratic of all people—to grapple with this problem, to face it without finching, to deal with it to the best of our knowledge and ability. I place on this House the responsibility of heeding the call of the people of Canada, as expressed time and again in the votes of the people in different sections of the country. From one end of Canada to the other a vast majority of the people have spoken for a prohibitory measure of some kind. I place on the House the responsibility of giving expression to these views and the responsibility of making such provision in the suppression of the liquor traffic as will make the nation as efficient as it can possibly be made. I urge the Government to grapple with this problem in connection with the distilling interests. I do not think there is any insuperable difficulty. Problems are solved by grappling with them, not by turning aside, and dodging them. I believe that this House is capable of dealing with this question, and that the majority of the members of this House are anxious to deal with it. I trust that before we adjourn the day's sitting we shall come to some decision in the matter. My proposal, therefore, is that this resolution be passed by this House, and that the Government at this session bring down the necessary legislation to give effect to it; that one year after the war, if desired, provision be made for a confirming plebiscite making the law permanent; that the Government take over all distilleries in Canada for the purpose of manufacturing denatured alcohol for industrial or medicinal purposes, and that the manufacture of such alcohol be made a national monopoly, thus changing a non-productive and wasteful institution into a productive and beneficial national industry.

Hon. CHARLES MARCIL (Bonaventure): Mr. Speaker, I have very much pleasure in seconding this proposed resolution. I wish to thank the hon. member for Vancouver (Mr. Stevens) for his kind words in regard to myself. Coming from the far east I am delighted to have the opportunity of seconding a resolution moved by a member from the far west, thus showing that on this great question Canada is united. The majority of the Canadian people realize that at this moment we are passing through probably the greatest crisis in our history. We are face to face with the greatest problem we have ever had to tackle. We have a Budget this year proposing an expenditure of \$425,000,000, and we do not