

between any two hon. members except as to the standpoint from which they will view the question. At the present time, with this horrible war raging, I would have thought that every member would be on the side of the Allies, and that therefore there would be no possible question how his vote would go when it was simply a question whether he should vote for civilization or for barbarism, for the Allies or for the Huns. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Devlin) has asked the Government to take steps under the War Measures Act to have the supply of grain to brewers and distillers immediately discontinued, and if by any unhappy chance the Kaiser had been a member of this House of Parliament, he would hold up both hands and most cheerfully vote in favour of the motion. Many of our breweries have, under local provincial legislation, closed their doors so that the quantity of grain used by brewers is comparatively small. We have, however, a large number of distilleries—the Corbyville distillery, the Prescott distillery, the Montreal distillery, the Seagram distillery, the Gooderham distillery, two distilleries at Perth, one at Hamilton, and one in British Columbia—quite an array of distilleries which are certainly using up an immense quantity of grain. The hon. gentleman asks us to stop the giving of grain to these distilleries, not one of which is to-day turning out one drop of whisky, but is turning out what is known as acetone, which is used in the manufacture of ammunition for the benefit of those who are fighting for us.

I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything more after naming these nine distilleries, not one of which is turning out a drop of whisky. There are two small distilleries at St. Hyacinthe and Berthier, and also the Walkerville distillery which are turning out some whisky, but when we find nine of our largest distilleries engaged in turning out for the Imperial Munitions Board the acetone they so much require, I think I am justified as a supporter of the Allies in voting against the motion.

: Mr. DEVLIN: I wanted to say before the hon. gentleman sat down that I would willingly consent to an amendment in regard to beverages.

Mr. NORTHRUP: If the hon. gentleman will amend his motion to express what he means, we can then consider it, but at present we are considering the motion before the House.

Mr. GRAHAM: It is not a motion at all.

Rt. Hon. Sir GEORGE FOSTER: As has already been said, this question can be argued entirely apart from any predilections we may have as to prohibition or non-prohibition, strict temperance or otherwise. The question involved in this motion is an economic one, and my hon. friend from Hastings (Mr. Northrup) has pointed out the cardinal lack in the motion. It would be impossible for the House, if it had the facts in its possession, to vote for the resolution as it stands. If such a motion were carried and put into effect the result would be the stoppage of a large proportion if not the main proportion of the preparations for war that are being carried on under the auspices of the Imperial Munitions Board in this country. It is well that the facts should be placed before the House, and I have here a statement prepared by the Department of Inland Revenue, giving the figures for the last three years. In the fiscal year of 1915, the distilleries used 83,288,969 pounds of grain, divided as follows, in round numbers: malt, 6,700,000 lbs.; corn, 61,000,000 lbs.; rye, 14,000,000 lbs.; oats, 500,000 lbs.; wheat, 1,180,000 lbs. In 1916 the total amount used was 44,971,959 pounds of grain, not much more than half the amount used in the preceding year, and that was divided as follows, again using round numbers: malt, 4,800,000 lbs.; corn, 33,000,000 lbs.; rye, 7,000,000 lbs.; oats, 169,000 lbs.; wheat, nil. In 1917 the total rose to 88,007,019 pounds, divided as follows: malt, 8,000,000 lbs.; corn, 69,500,000 lbs.; rye, 10,430,000 lbs.; oats, 131,000 lbs., and wheat 27,780 lbs. That shows that the production of 1915, probably most of which was for beverage purposes, fell by almost 50 per cent in the following year, but in 1917 the figures were a little above those of 1915. The figures I have given refer to the distilleries alone. Now for the facts in connection with the increase in these figures. For the purpose of making nitro-cellulose powder and cordite, 6,000,000 lbs. of alcohol in round figures were used monthly by the Imperial Munitions Board. Without detaining the House to give the figures in detail I may say that that amount is equal to, if not in excess of, the total producing power of the distilleries in Canada at the present time, and as long as the war goes on with its consumption of explosives on an increasing scale, and as long as Canada keeps the position she occupies in the making of explosives, then entirely apart from food considerations, you have to come to