

pose it will be understood that the first motion is that which will be voted on.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The two motions could not be put by the Chair at the same time.

Mr. HENRY HERBERT STEVENS (Vancouver): Mr. Speaker, in rising to address the House this afternoon on the motion which you have just read, I realize in the first place that it deals with a matter of vast importance, and I am deeply impressed with a sense of my own limitations in discussing it. I feel that the proposed resolution might have been placed in the hands of a member of the House whose experience and influence would have enabled him to deal with the question in a very much better manner than I can hope to. I have particularly in my mind the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir George Foster), whose utterances on this question in the past have been of such a character as, in my opinion, to be classics amongst the oratory and literature of Canada. I should very much like to have seen this resolution in his charge. I am somewhat comforted, however, by the thought that the resolution is seconded by an hon. gentleman (Mr. Marcil) whose words in this House are always received with marked respect.

It is clear, I think, to every hon. member of the House that this question, which is of such grave national importance, is being approached from an entirely non-political standpoint. Some have called the proposed resolution revolutionary, and I shall have something to say on that point later. The subject matter of this resolution and the matters I wish to lay before the House are of such importance, that I fear I shall have to trouble the House at some considerable length, even though I do not even then hope to cover all the ground. Some phases of the question I shall touch on in only the most casual manner, leaving it to others to take up any special phase that may appeal to them.

There are two aspects to this question: the moral and the economic or social aspect, and with the moral aspect I do not intend to deal at any great length. Not because I fail to appreciate the moral importance of the question, but, as the wording of the resolution indicates, because I desire to deal particularly with its economic or social aspect. I should like to impress upon the House, however, that it is quite within the rights of any hon. mem-

[Mr. Marcil.]

ber to bring up the moral aspect of any problem, and I sometimes think that the members of this House are a little too backward in emphasizing the moral aspects of problems pertaining to the welfare of the people of Canada. I think it is just as much the business of this Parliament to look after the moral health of the nation as after its commercial, economic and industrial health. I shall leave the moral aspect of the question with this one observation: A nation's moral character, like an individual's, is developed and strengthened, and beautified, not by the indulgence of its grosser appetites, but by their subjection. As a nation or as an individual, we gain in moral strength by the diligent exercise of the virtues of industry, honesty, and service, rather than by the assertion of so-called personal rights or by satisfying our whims. It is not my intention to go into this aspect of the question at any great length.

With regard to the economic aspect. This resolution, as its terms indicate, is proposed here to-day as a war measure. In considering this question as it relates to the war it is necessary for me to impress upon the House how titanic is the struggle we are engaged in, and what new factors are entering into the settlement of this war. It seems as if it would not be men, strategy, or military tactics that will decide the war, but that all the elements that go to make up a virile nation must be marshalled if we are to prove victorious. A vast army of the citizens of Canada is asking for consideration of this question, and I hold that I need not apologize to any man, nor to this House, for having submitted it for the consideration of Parliament. A great many members dislike it, and friends of mine on both sides of the House claim that it is unwise to introduce a measure of this kind. But I hold that when a large portion of the people of Canada demand consideration of a given problem, this Parliament dare not say nay. I therefore say that the personal opinion of myself or of any other member of this House has little or nothing to do with the question, and that as representatives of the people we are bound to give consideration to this problem, which to-day is demanding and holding the attention of a vast portion of the whole people of Canada. I am not voicing the wish of a few fanatics; I am voicing the opinion of a vast number of our citizens. Some say that the