

to the motion, and what is the effect of that amendment if adopted by this House.

My hon. friend knows perfectly well that this is not the time to bring forward a tariff resolution in this House. The time for a tariff resolution is not upon going into Supply, but upon going into Ways and Means on the Budget. That is the time for a resolution on the tariff, and if my hon. friend genuinely and sincerely desired to put forward a tariff resolution, that is the time when it should be put forward, because that is the only time on which a tariff resolution can be intelligently discussed.

Now, why do I say that? Because it is only when the Budget is brought down that the financial position of the Dominion is disclosed, the needs of the Dominion exchequer are made known to Parliament and the country, and the policy which the Government has to meet those needs is submitted to the House of Commons. The time for a resolution on the tariff therefore is not, as I have said, upon a motion to go into Supply, but when the Budget speech has been brought down and the policy of the Government is before the House.

What is the motion before the House to-day? The motion before the House is, that the Speaker do leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply. Any amendment whatsoever, no matter what its merits or demerits may be, moved as my hon. friend has moved his motion is a motion of want of confidence in the Government. My hon. friend knows perfectly well that the adoption of the amendment which he has moved to-day would mean the defeat of the Government upon a vital matter, namely, Supply. Why does the Government move that the House go into Supply? In order that the Government may be enabled to carry on the administration of the affairs of the country. The motion is to go into Supply in order that the Estimates which have been submitted to the House may be taken into consideration; in order that items may be voted—items providing the necessary funds for the payment of members of the Civil Service, to provide effectually for the judicial administration of Canada; to provide for the construction of important national works and undertakings; to provide for carrying on the railway systems owned and operated by the Government; to provide for pensions for our returned soldiers; to vote the sums of money necessary to bring our soldiers back from across the seas. That is the reason why the House is moved into Com-

mittee of Supply. My hon. friend moves in amendment that the House do not go into Committee of Supply; therefore his amendment is a motion of want of confidence in the Government, because if the House does not go into Supply, if the items contained in the Estimates are not voted by Parliament, the Government cannot carry on. While my hon. friend's motion is technically in order, as an amendment, it is entirely out of place. I say that with entire respect to my hon. friend, because resolutions of that kind have been moved in the past. But their effect has been precisely as I have indicated; they have always been regarded and must be regarded under our constitutional system as a motion of want of confidence in the Government upon a vital question.

As I have said, my hon. friend should have postponed the moving of this resolution, if he desired to have it considered by the House, until after the bringing down of the Budget, until after the financial situation of the country has been disclosed to the House, and until the Government proposals have been submitted to the House for consideration following the Budget speech. I do not propose, therefore, to discuss the proposals in this resolution because this is not the time to discuss them. They are important proposals; they relate to revenue, to trade, to finance, to international treaties. But I shall not discuss them because, as I have said, the proper time to discuss proposals of this kind is in the Budget debate, not on a motion to go into Supply.

While my hon. friend is a popular member of the other side, as indeed he is on this side of the House, I was interested in observing that no very great happiness was expressed in the faces of hon. gentlemen opposite as he proceeded with his dissertation. Some of them I noted particularly. When my hon. friend was talking about the duty on woollens and might have inadvertently touched on the duty on cotton goods, I looked at the member for Huntingdon (Mr. Robb); his face seemed grave. That, however, may have been merely a synchronism, not cause and effect. Similarly, the member for Richmond and Wolfe (Mr. Tobin) did not look particularly happy until the member for Brome had taken his seat, and the member for Sherbrooke (Mr. McCrea) by no means reflected the expression of enthusiasm which beamed from the face of the member for Brome when he was putting forward his want of confidence in the Gov-