

not take the time to-night to do so. If there is any hon. member present who would like to make any remarks in regard to this item he will have an opportunity of doing so when the other items are under discussion.

Progress reported.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Crothers, the House adjourned at 11.30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 8, 1917.

The House met at Three o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

GRAIN FOR BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES.

PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE THE SUPPLY.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. EMMANUEL B. DEVLIN (Wright) asked for leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the necessity, owing to the high cost of living, and the importance of conserving all food products for the benefit of the consumers of Canada, the Empire, and our Allies, that the Government take steps under the War Measures Act to have the supply of grain to brewers and distillers immediately discontinued.

And leave having been granted,

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the hon. member proceeds, I deem it my duty to apprise the House that, inasmuch as this motion specifies the subject proposed to be discussed, discussion should be very strictly confined to the subject mentioned in the motion. I hope that hon. members who may speak shall confine their remarks as closely as possible to the subject.

Mr. DEVLIN: Mr. Speaker, I mean to take up very little of the time of the House in discussing the motion which I have now the honour to present. Since the beginning of the war I have tried as much as possible to confine my time and attention in this House to matters directly affecting our country, the Empire, and our Allies, in the interest of the war which is now being waged. The idea which came into my mind in bringing this matter before the House was prompted by a speech delivered by the Minister of Finance to the congregation of St. James Methodist Church at Montreal. In speaking upon the subject of self-sacrifice and self-denial, the minister

[Mr. Crothers.]

used these words, which appealed to me, and which, I am sure, must have appealed to every man who has read the report of that speech:

The duty of every man who can produce anything useful or essential for the national good is to strengthen the nation and put forth his utmost effort. Increased production is necessary, increased agricultural production especially. Every acre, every plot of land in the Empire, should be made to produce this year to the utmost of the human energy available for the purpose. The only reason the nation can sustain the burden of the war is because of the enormous expenditures in peace time for luxuries being discontinued; the cutting out of all but essentials, and there are comparatively few essentials in this world after all.

As I am not familiar as perhaps are others in this country with the use of whisky and beer, I was forced to look up an encyclopedia to find out what were the raw materials used in the manufacture of those liquors, and I find that they consist of barley, wheat, rye, sugar, corn, and molasses. It is imperative, owing to war conditions, that every country should see that its inhabitants are properly supplied with foodstuffs, and secondly that waste and unnecessary uses of foodstuffs are eliminated. Whisky, beer and similar liquors used as beverages cannot be considered as amongst the necessities of life, but the raw materials used in the manufacture of those beverages are without doubt necessities of life. Following out the advice given by the Minister of Finance, we must eliminate all waste and extravagance, and we must, if we want to be in a position to cope with the situation that faces this country and our Allies, produce from the land as much as possible, to supply not only the consumers of this country, but the Allies in so far as we are able to do so. If we desire to do that, we must do it by the elimination of waste and extravagance. The use of whisky, beer, and similar beverages constitutes waste and extravagance; the raw materials used in those beverages are wasted, and it is an extravagant use of those raw materials. Therefore, if whisky, beer and similar drinks are not necessities of life, but the raw materials used in those beverages are necessities of life, it becomes the duty of the Government, and the Government has that right under the War Measures Act, to eliminate from consumption in this country such beverages in order that the consumers may, in the way of foodstuffs, have the full benefit of the raw materials of which I have spoken.

I further want to point out to the House that it will be in the interest of the farm-