

and say that the use of tobacco in any form is very detrimental to the health of young people. But the physicians generally agree that it is innocuous to grown up people, whether in the form of cigarettes or cigars or smoked in pipes. The whole of my hon. friend's argument was that the use of cigarettes is injurious to boys. He did not pretend to say it was injurious to men, and I am convinced he will not. Does he think it is fair to deprive adults of that which is harmless to them because it may be injurious to young people?

I sympathize altogether, for my part, with every effort that can be made to discourage, and, if possible, prevent the use of cigarettes by young boys. And, if I may be permitted to express my own feelings, I may say that nothing can be more offensive to me than to meet on the street a young boy of ten or twelve with a cigarette in his mouth. It is a thing, I think which should be prevented by police regulation, it is a thing which should be prevented by parents. But, although this is offensive and dangerous in the young child and should therefore be prevented, does it follow that it should be prevented in the grown man in whose case it is neither dangerous nor offensive? It seems to me that my hon. friend is going altogether too far. This resolution, like all legislation of this kind, if it were passed and put in the statute-book in the form of a law, would be likely to defeat the very object which the hon. gentleman has in view. All sumptuary legislation of this kind has been shown by experience to be, not beneficial but the very reverse, unless there is a strong public sentiment in the community against it; and I do not think it will be contended that legislation preventing the use of cigarettes by men would have behind it the support of the community. No one would suggest that men who desire to smoke should be prevented from using cigar or pipe, and equally, surely no one would suggest that men who prefer cigarettes should be prevented from using tobacco in that form. Still, this is the effect of the motion which my hon. friend has offered to the House and which he asks us to adopt. His argument, to which I listened very carefully—and for which, if he will accept it from me I would express my high commendation—was against only one form of tobacco and against the use of that form by one class—that is it was against the use of cigarettes by children. And yet what is his conclusion? It is expressed in the terms of his resolution:

That this House is of the opinion, for the reasons heretofore set forth, that the right and most effectual legislative remedy for these evils is to be found in the enactment and enforcement of a law prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of cigarettes; and that it is expedient to bring in a Bill at this

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session to prohibit the importation, manufacture and sale of cigarettes.

In my estimation the motion of my hon. friend goes altogether too far. I have also this to say: Even if I thought that this motion could be accepted by this House, I can hardly agree with him that it would be expedient to bring in this session the legislation he proposes. We are now in the third month of the session, and we hope, by the blessing of a kind providence—

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. And the help of somebody else.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER—and the consent of His Majesty's loyal opposition, and the efforts of the third party also—I am sure that on this question we shall be unanimous—to bring the session to a close early next month. Under these circumstances, I do not think the motion should be agreed to.

Hon. GEO. E. FOSTER (North Toronto). Will the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) allow me to ask him a question?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. I am glad to hear the right hon. gentleman's sympathy with the purpose of my hon. friend from Peel (Mr. Blain) so cordially expressed. He would like to see cigarette smoking by children done away with as far as possible. But he thinks it is going too far to prohibit the use of this form of tobacco by adults. Now, what I would like to ask is what he would propose, within the powers of this parliament, to mitigate the evil which he deplors?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I have nothing to propose at this moment; but I am always open to conviction and always ready to vote for a good measure.

Mr. FOSTER. That is good as far as it goes, but I do not know that it gives us much information. For my part I have not very much to say with reference to this matter, except to express my hearty and entire sympathy with the purpose of the mover of this resolution, and, in fact of all those who have spoken, to prevent, so far it can be done, the smoking of cigarettes or tobacco in any form by non-adults, especially young children. This should be done not only for the sake of the children themselves, but for the sake of the nation as a whole. I am afraid that we sometimes lose sight of waste at one end whilst we devote great expense and care to building up at the other end. For instance, we are very anxious to have immigrants come into this country. We spend half a million or a million dollars a year in order to add to our population by importations from abroad. We consider that this is good business policy for the country. But, when the matter is looked at properly, I think that it is