

everything in our power to conserve what food supplies we have. I was much impressed with what was said about the high price of food for dairy cattle the other day, and also by what my hon. friend from Brockville (Mr. Webster) said about the large amount of food used for the dairy herds in this province. We must make every effort to increase our production of butter, cheese, bacon and meat of all kinds in this time of war. The war is not over. It looks none too encouraging to-day in any quarter, and there may be a danger that Germany will get control of Russia and the great food supplies there, so that the Allies may not have the benefit of that source of supply. In view of all these things, this Government, I think, would be justified in adopting some such measure as that under discussion to-day.

Mr. H. H. STEVENS (Vancouver City): Mr. Speaker, I think that my views on this subject are pretty well known to the House. A year ago I suggested to the House and to the Government that the distilleries of the country should be devoted to the production of spirits for useful war purposes, and the suggestion of the hon. member from Wright contains the same principle, that is, that grains and other food products should be restricted to profitable and productive uses rather than to the production of what is generally looked upon as a luxury. However, in listening to the discussion to-day, I have not observed much effort to deal with some of the difficulties which must present themselves to every thoughtful person. It would be of little value for the Government to restrict or prohibit the use of grain or other food products in Canada for the manufacture of liquors if, by simply exporting the grain across the line, the same grain, or a similar quality, could be absorbed there in any large manufacturing institution for the manufacture of intoxicating liquor. In my estimation, we should go a great deal further. In fact, only yesterday I drew this matter to the attention of some members of the Government, and the suggestion was made that the Government should prohibit the exportation of any grains except to allied countries for food purposes. That would be going a step further than the resolution of the hon. member for Wright, but would, I think, not go far enough. Up to a day or two ago the Imperial authorities had not exercised much restriction with regard to the use of grains in the manufacture of intoxicating liquor, but I noticed in yesterday's paper despatches from the old land indicating

[Mr. W. F. Maclean]

that some action would be taken in that respect. I assume that the Minister of Trade and Commerce, who is now leading the House, will be able to give hon. gentlemen some information as to the possibility of an understanding being arrived at between Canada and the United States and the Motherland with a view to giving definite effect to this proposal. If by our example and by conference with the other Governments we could induce the exercise of similar restrictions in these three countries, some very definite and valuable results would follow.

I would like to have had some definite figures as to the quantities of grain that have been used for the manufacture of intoxicating liquors. As a matter of fact, I had intended to bring this matter to the attention of the House by proposing a motion; I have a copy of it in my pocket, and had intended to put it on the Order Paper. However, the matter has been brought up, and I regret that I have not the figures with me and that we are not in a position to know just what benefit would result from a restriction of this kind. I think we are all of the opinion that some such action as is suggested would be of definite benefit to the country. I would like to impress upon the Government the seriousness of the proposal and suggest that it receive their favourable attention at a very early date.

Mr. J. A. ROBB (Huntingdon): In presenting his resolution, the hon. member for Wright (Mr. Devlin) gave statistics to show that in the year 1916 over 3,000,000 bushels of grain were used in the manufacture of alcoholic beverages. Calculating an average of 25 bushels to the acre, it would take 125,000 acres to grow the grain required during one year for the manufacture of these alcoholic beverages. If that grain, instead of being diverted to the purpose of manufacturing an alcoholic beverage, which, as has been remarked by a previous speaker, is, after all, only a luxury, were devoted to the feeding and graining of cattle, it would grain 60,000 milch cows for one year, thus enabling the farmers to produce milk a little cheaper. Including the grain and molasses used, the value of the raw material diverted to the manufacture of alcoholic beverages in one year would be \$4,250,000. I submit, therefore, in view of the fact that the hon. Minister of Finance, the Minister of Agriculture—indeed all the Government—are appealing to the people to exercise thrift and economy, that we would be amply