

weeks yet, and surely in that time—especially considering that this question has been before the House the last four or five years—we ought to be able to dispose of it. I am prepared therefore to support the resolution of my hon. friend from Peel (Mr. Blain).

Mr. R. N. WALSH (Huntingdon). I cannot agree with the hon. the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) when he urges that we should not go too hastily. I believe that we cannot go too hastily in legislating on this matter. Nobody who has paid any attention to the youth of this country can fail to be deeply impressed by the pernicious results of cigarette smoking. I am surprised that the right hon. the First Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) should argue that we ought not to deal with this question because cigarette smoking is not injurious to adults. Anybody who has heard the opinions of medical men or who has seen men with shaking hands who must have a cigarette before breakfast to steady their nerves, must know that the habit is injurious both to adults and youth, though of course much more so to the latter. All those who have given any attention to school children have found that the great difficulty in curtailing the habit lies in the temptation to buy cigarettes when they are exposed for sale in every corner grocery. It has been said that so long as the elder people smoke pipes and cigars, the children will follow suit. But who ever saw, while cigars and tobacco were in general use and cigarettes practically unknown, boys smoking as we see them to-day? It is only since cigarettes have been put on the market that the tobacco evil among immature youth has grown to such an extent. I think that a Bill should be introduced this session. What is the use of leaving it over to another session, when we will just have the same difficulty? All the speeches in opposition to this resolution are practically in favour of the legislation asked for; and when all are in accord, why not introduce a measure and put it through the House.

Mr. CHARLES DEVLIN (Nicolet). I would like to explain why it is impossible for me to support this resolution.

I have no objection whatever to the first two portions of the resolution, but I decidedly object to the last clause—that is, that portion which forbids the importation, the manufacture and the sale of cigarettes. I object to that for the simple reason that I do not think that, even if you were to enact such a law it would be carried out. Of the hon. gentlemen who have spoken here to-day there are several who, I am quite sure, if they knew the attachment that one using tobacco has for that article, would soon be convinced that notwithstanding any laws we might pass upon the subject, the man in want of tobacco would

find a way to get it. The resolution, if carried into effect would do away with the smoking of cigarettes in this country. Well, I do not think that there is much likelihood of such legislation being carried out in the immediate future. For my part, I do not think cigarettes are much more injurious than is tobacco in any other form. If we carry out this resolution, what shall we see in the future? Take, for instance, a social dinner: there are those who cannot smoke a cigar or a pipe, but can smoke a cigarette; there are those who can smoke a pipe but cannot smoke either cigarette or cigar. Carry this resolution into effect, and the pipe must be taken out and smoked instead of the cigar or cigarette, and to my mind such a sight at a great social function would be neither seemly nor artistic.

But what struck me most was the speech of my hon. friend from North Toronto (Mr. Foster). I was edified; and yet I could hardly believe that this was the same hon. gentleman whom I had known from 1891 to 1896 in this House. Then, he was in power; then he had the opportunity of passing this legislation. That was his time. No doubt, the evil was as great as it is to-day, and I am quite sure that it was brought to his notice. His feelings upon this subject, I have no doubt, were as strong then as they are now. But never once, from 1891 to 1896, although he was then Finance Minister of this country, did he undertake to pass legislation upon this subject. And, I put it to the hon. gentleman: some day, perhaps, he will be Finance Minister again; well, when he is Finance Minister again, when he is once more at the head of the department over which he presided so long, will he bring in legislation such as he advocated to-day? I am quite sure that his attitude then will be exactly what his attitude was when he was Finance Minister. I am sure that he will not rise here to-day and tell this House that if his party comes into power, he will introduce legislation forbidding the importation, the manufacture and the sale of cigarettes. I can readily understand that on almost everything he will advocate higher duties, but I do not think that he will advocate this prohibitory legislation. I was astonished therefore, to hear him twitting the right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) upon that subject and that he was so anxious that the leader of the government should immediately adopt a Bill forbidding these things, which, in his day he had the power to forbid but did not forbid, and which, I believe, were he in power to-day, he would not forbid.

Again, in respect of this article, what authority have we for saying that the cigarette is any worse than the cigar, or pipe, or snuff, or any other use to which tobacco is put? Why not include all these also? The hon. gentleman says that he is aiming especially at the protection of the children.