

thing in favour of this suggestion and nothing against it except the interests of a few brewers and manufacturers. Therefore, I hope that the Government will lend a kindly ear to this suggestion, and within a very short time issue the necessary instructions that, until the war is ended, no further grain shall be used for making whisky or beer.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN (South York): Mr. Speaker, I have attended some meetings in my own province of Ontario, the main object of which was to increase the agricultural production of that province. A great committee has been formed for that purpose, with the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario as chairman. Sub-committees are now at work to ascertain how the resources of the province can be best developed for the purposes of this war. I have read in the press, and I myself have written in the press and advised, that there ought to be a conservation of all our energies for the purposes of the war; and certainly we in Ontario are talking in the direction of increasing the production of food products in this country, not only producing them but using them efficiently. We are devoting barley, rye, corn and wheat in some cases to the production of these liquors and spirits. The province of Ontario has declared in favour of prohibition, while we have declared that we are in favour of increased production and efficient use of what we produce; and so I say that to be consistent with one's self one must support this proposal. Either there is to be a scarcity of food or there is not, and we know pretty well that there is to be from the way in which prices are soaring to-day. This Parliament will not be doing its duty unless it does everything possible in the way of preserving the food energies of the country. When we use grain like barley, rye, corn and wheat in the manufacture of spirits for drinking purposes, instead of devoting it to the feeding of the people and the maintenance of our soldiers and citizens, securing reasonable prices of food for the men working in munition factories, we are not being true to the protestations we make as to our loyalty and desire to win the war. All these grains can be used as ordinary foods. Barley and rye both make splendid bread, and while perhaps the corn which we largely import from the United States cannot be used for bread making, all of these grains can be used for the feeding of stock, and it is as essential to increase our production of livestock in

Canada for food purposes as to increase the production of other foodstuffs. You are lessening the amount of food available for mankind, and you are also lessening the amount of food available for the production of these food animals. That being the case, I say it is the duty of the Government, and I think they will see it is their duty, to take action in this respect. Certainly it seems to be the logical conclusion of what they have said heretofore, that there must be conservation of these things. I only wish to say that I should like to see it done.

But we must always remember that while the distilleries are running at high pressure and are producing a great deal of spirits, a comparatively small proportion of these spirits goes into drink. These spirits are used for the production of glycerine and other things essential in the manufacture of high explosives. It may be necessary to continue the operation of the distilleries for the production of spirits for explosive purposes, but to permit the use of these grains for any other purpose except for food would to my mind be a mistake, and would not be living up to the views we are expressing publicly here, and that the Government has stated publicly. At meetings held throughout the country every one says: Conserve your energies. So to be true and just to ourselves we have to take the position that has been proposed here to-day and, as I said, I think the Government are ready to take that position, at least it is the logical position for them to take, and I trust that they will take an early opportunity of conserving grains of this kind. In a proclamation signed by His Majesty the King the other day it was stated that the greatest care must be exercised in the use of all kinds of grains in the Mother Country, especially in feeding stock. It was stated that even the horses, except those kept for the express purpose of carrying on and maintaining the breed, would have to go without oats unless oats were absolutely necessary for them as work horses. But even that was not mentioned, it was said unless they were essential for the maintenance of the breed, that is, the brood mares and the stud horses. The same thing was said with regard to all cattle; if they had to have superior food they must have it, but if food could be spared from the use of animals and was required for the maintenance of the people it ought to be conserved in that direction. With these soaring prices for food and with our farmers in great need of food for their dairy cattle, we must do