

could safely follow him on all political questions which might come before this House. We no longer have him with us, but we have the beautiful fruits of his life work, the principles which he laid down and which should guide not only the Liberals who supported him, but every man who is intent on his country's good and wishes to do his duty by those who sent him here and by the Dominion at large—not as he sees it in his own parochial way but from the broader standpoint of the whole Dominion. Sir, these principles have been instilled into the minds of Liberals in this House and throughout the Dominion, including my Liberal friends on the other side of the House who would follow them if they had the courage of their convictions. I listened with much interest to my hon. friend from Brome (Mr. McMaster), who gave a good reason why his motion should be adopted—indeed, he gave many good reasons. He took the question up in its economic phase, and although I shall not weary the House by repeating the virtues of the resolution, I will assure my hon. friends from the West that in supporting the resolution we are not at all guided by what action they may take. We do not care a jot whether they desire to place their colleagues in a false or a fair light in the House. That is a matter of their own concern. But what we wish to place upon the record is the fact that, of all classes in this Dominion, the one class that is not protected is the farming population; and we wish further to record our recognition of the just demands of the farmers and our support of them in those demands. Will technicalities stand in the way? Let that same resolution in a different form be introduced by any hon. gentleman on the opposite side as a Government measure, and I appeal to my leader to tell me whether I am right in saying that hon. members on this side would give the same measure of support to the resolution so introduced as they propose to give to that now before the House.

It is not my intention to endeavour to embarrass the Government. Heaven knows, Sir, they are sufficiently embarrassed as it stands, although they have brought this embarrassment on themselves. They have made innumerable pledges, and if they cannot fulfil those pledges, well, we can only shrug our shoulders and pray for them. But I want to say one word to my friend the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. T. A. Crerar). We recognize the extremely difficult position he is in, and sympathize with him. We under-

[Mr. Devlin.]

stand that he has been for many years the spokesman for the farming communities in the West. He entered this Government as a matter of conscience, he tells us, and adds that to support this resolution would place him in a false light, it would perhaps mean the defeat of the Government; in any even he did not think the present was an opportune time to propose it. Well, I readily agree with the hon. minister in that last argument; any resolution which may have a tendency to embarrass a Government is likely to be regarded by that Government as inopportune at any time, war or no war. The resolution which was proposed on the 29th of May, 1917, and which was supported by the hon. gentlemen now seated on the other side of the House, was not, according to my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture, introduced at an opportune time. Its introduction, I take it, would be eminently opportune if the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture happened to be seated on this side of the House; but he is not on this side, hence his opinion. Other members following him spoke along the same lines. Well, Mr. Speaker, any time is an opportune time for the farmers of the East; and if it is not an opportune time for the farmers of the West, my advice to hon. gentlemen representing Western interests will be to wait until such time presents itself. If the farmers of the West are satisfied to wait indefinitely, it is well; but we who represent constituencies wherein farmers are to be found, and who know something about the farming communities of Eastern Canada, are of opinion that the farmers are not prepared to wait any longer for action on the part of the Government.

Hon. F. B. CARVELL (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, considering the importance of the amendment before the House, and the number of times that I have discussed the tariff question in this House during the last fourteen or fifteen years, I do not feel justified in giving a silent vote upon the amendment, and for that reason I shall proceed to place myself on record very briefly as to my position. In doing so I hope it will be distinctly understood that I am speaking for nobody but myself; I am not attempting to represent the Government, and I am speaking, in so far as it is possible to do so, as an ordinary member of the House. Like my friend from Qu'Appelle (Mr. Levi Thomson) when I heard the amendment read this afternoon it sounded very familiar to me: it was practically the Oliver resolution of 1917, which