

amount of grain that is used for distilling and brewing purposes. The Government have an opportunity of showing that they are not only in favour of temperance but that they are in favour of conserving the grain production of the country for food purposes. In so far as my knowledge of the country goes, I think it will be necessary before the snow flies again for the Government to use every effort to conserve the grain in the country for food purposes and therefore I have pleasure in endorsing the resolution. I would ask the Government to take into their serious consideration the question of doing something along this line because that is a direction in which they can move and do the least harm and the most good.

Mr. J. G. TURRIFF (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. friend from Wright (Mr. Devlin) has every justification for bringing this matter to the attention of the Government. I know that in so far as the people I represent are concerned, nine-tenths of them, Liberals and Conservatives alike, would support and justify the Government in taking action along the line suggested by my hon. friend. I do not intend to refer to this in the sense of temperance legislation in any degree whatever. I altogether agree with the view expressed by my hon. friend from North Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt) a moment ago, that we were facing possibly a much more serious situation than we have any idea of. We heard from the hon. member for Wright of the crop failures in some of the South American countries. There is the Republic of Argentina, which is not at war at all, but which has been compelled to take just such action as the hon. member for Wright has asked the Government to take. There never has been a time in the past, whatever the future may bring forward, when the Government could take this action and cause as little disturbance to the large interests, and there are large financial interests engaged in making whisky and beer. Many of the factories could be used to great advantage in manufacturing, not from grain, but from other sources, spirits to be used in connection with the making of high explosives. The grain and food supplies that are being used to-day in the manufacture of beer and whisky could be saved to the country. With the crop failure in South America, and with the possibility of a light crop in Canada, this saving would be all important. Remember that we are now at the eighth day of May and that this is one of

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

the latest seasons we have ever had in Canada taking it all around. I know, speaking for the West, that the chances are that we are going to have a very small crop, we are going to have a much less acreage in wheat than we have had in the past and we do not grow a great deal of barley in the West. Our crop will have to go more largely to oats and flax. We are going to have a short crop in all probability of the grains that go to make human food. Then, what about the conditions that exist in England? I am afraid from what I have heard from men and women who have returned from Great Britain in the last month that the conditions there are considerably worse than we have any idea of, that they are extremely serious. When you find a country like Great Britain tearing up their parks and lands that have not grown food products for many years, something very serious is on. Here is an opportunity now for the Government to save many millions of bushels of food products for the people, either for ourselves, or for the Empire, or for our Allies, all in the interest of winning this war. If the Government does not take advantage of this situation, in my judgment, it will be neglecting the greatest opportunity that has ever come to the Government to meet the views of all the people of Canada. If they do take advantage of this suggestion they will meet the views of the great majority of the people and they will be doing something that the people of Canada want to have done. They have the expression of the views of the people on the general liquor question, and I am not going to discuss that. But that helps to justify them to-day in taking action to conserve this great amount of food product and thereby to make not only Canada but Great Britain, the Empire, and our Allies that much stronger. I feel that I would not be representing the sentiments of my constituency if I did not make these remarks. I trust that the Government will not be hampered, that they will not allow themselves to be hampered, by the consideration of any particular interest, distilling, or brewing, or any other, but that they will go forward and save this grain to the people, and not only the grain but the sugar and molasses as well. Sugar and molasses are as much food products as wheat, oats or barley. By the course suggested something can be saved, and in saving it no harm would be done to the country, rather a greater good would be done than by letting this grain be converted into whisky and beer. So there is every-