

that grains shall be used for food, and so improve our position in relation to the war, those steps should be taken.

Mr. J. H. BURNHAM (West Peterborough): I support the motion, both the principle involved and the statement regarding it made by the Finance Minister, upon whose statement, I believe the motion has been initiated.

Mr. HUGH GUTHRIE (South Wellington): As has been said, this motion comes before the House practically without notice, and consequently one is not so well prepared as one would like to be to discuss the question. I am satisfied that the suggestion of the hon. member for Wright (Mr. Devlin) is in the right direction. We in Canada, I think, are lagging behind our friends in the United States on this question. I see published daily in the New York Times and New York Herald almost whole sheet advertisements by the National Brewers of the United States, trying to justify their position at the present critical time in regard to food shortage, by showing the infinitesimally small quantity of grain they use. One has only to look into the records in our country, and I fancy in their country too, to see that it is not a small quantity of grain that is used by the brewers and distillers, but a large quantity—over 3,000,000 bushels of grain used in Canada last year to produce something which in seven out of the nine provinces is now practically prohibited. I fancy that the year 1915 showed a larger consumption of grain by brewers and distillers than last year, because in September last prohibition went into effect in Ontario, as it had gone into effect earlier in the year in other provinces. I think there is an easy way to meet the difficulty in this matter. A year ago last March the Minister of Justice (Mr. Doherty) had a Bill before the House dealing with the question of the importation of liquors into various provinces. On that occasion I pointed out that the Government should go a step further and that, in the provinces where prohibition had been passed, the licenses of brewers and distillers should be revoked. The Inland Revenue Act provides that brewers' and distillers' licenses may be revoked in any year. That can be done now simply by a refusal to grant brewers' or distillers' malting and distilling licenses for seven of the nine provinces in which prohibition is in force. It would not apply generally throughout

Canada but I am sure that such a course would undoubtedly be in accord with the views of the people of these seven provinces. I think the House is entitled to some expression on that question from the members of the Government. One can realize that in Ontario perhaps it is a difficult question for the present Government to deal with. One has only to cast one's eye at Walkerville, Ontario, with its tremendous distilleries, at Waterloo and at the Gooderham and Wort's distillery in Toronto to know that perhaps the Government may have some difficulty in meeting what I believe is a general demand at the present time. There are to-day in Canada, I believe, eleven distilleries and ninety-four breweries operating and it would be a very simple thing, and something that the people at this moment expect, for the Government, through the Inland Revenue Act, as it is at present framed, or by legislation, or by Order in Council under the War Measures Act, to entirely eliminate the consumption of the grain that is now used by these breweries and distilleries. Pass it, if you will, as a war measure because it certainly would be an appropriate measure at the present time. I feel confident that the whole country will support it.

Mr. EDMOND PROULX (Prescott): I know that some of the farmers have difficulty in procuring grain for seeding their land this year. I think public opinion would support the Government if it would take measures to relieve the situation. One way of relieving the situation would be by saving the grain which goes into the production of liquor. It is certainly wasted. What is the use of the Government preaching economy and self-sacrifice if the Government does not do anything to relieve the situation? Something has been done by the provinces. The Government has passed legislation confirming the legislation passed by the provinces and trying to help the provinces in having the law observed. But, that is not sufficient. We are certainly passing through a crisis which demands upon the part of the citizens a measure of self-sacrifice and I do not see why the distilleries and brewers should not have their sacrifices as well as other people are having theirs. I am strongly in favour of the resolution proposed by my hon. friend from Wright (Mr. Devlin).

Mr. E. W. NESBITT (North Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I think that something should be done during the war to curtail the