

piecemeal, uncertain and, I might say, unstatesmanlike manner. A fine war effort has been done in many respects, but in the matter of man-power this government has steadily fought a delaying action against the adoption of any system of national selective service. The consequence has been a lowering of morale all over this dominion. When the Prime Minister came before parliament and pointed out that he and his government had been hobbled by the promises that had been made, we supported him in the country by pleading with the people to vote "yes" on the plebiscite. We went on the platform and spoke over the radio, and all of us asked that the Prime Minister and his government be relieved of those promises. Now what are we to get? The Minister of Agriculture, if I understood him correctly, says that so far as he is concerned nothing is going to be done about this matter, either now or in the near future.

In 1940, two years ago now, when the prospects were dark and fearful, there was introduced for the first time a national resources mobilization bill. Parliament enacted that measure in two days. Speedy action was necessary because it was the determination of the government that there should be no delay. What was the result? First there came the national registration for the purpose of ascertaining and mobilizing the man-power of the nation, and ascertaining the skills and abilities of the people in every part of this dominion. A dead letter it has been, except for the calling up of men for service under the thirty-day plan. The next step was the thirty-day plan, and well I remember the arguments that were advanced against it from this side of the house. It has proven to have been extravagant, costly, wasteful, and fruitless. Many of the young men who were called up under that plan are still at their homes, having returned there when their thirty-days' training was over, and so far as Canada is concerned their training is ended.

Then came the four-months plan, finally extended for the period of the war. So far as that plan is concerned it has been unfair, unjust and inexcusable. Quotas have been fixed, not on the fair basis of population or available man-power, but on bases that have no justification. Much is made of national unity, but you cannot build national unity on any foundation other than that of equality of service province by province and equality of service within each province. In the west, as in other parts of Canada, large groups of individuals have been freed as a result of their conscientious objection from giving any equal service to this country in time of war, or at

least from a type of service similar to that given by those called into the army. All they have been required to do is to go to parks as guests of his majesty for a period of three or four months, where they are paid at the rate of 50 cents a day, and are then allowed to return home. There is no equality of service in that.

The next stage was that enunciated by the Minister of National Defence for Air (Mr. Power), when, speaking I believe last December, he announced the new policy of selective service for Canada. Have we got that policy yet? Well, it took almost four months before the regulations were first handed down or placed before this parliament on the twenty-fourth of March last, and only a few days ago the Minister of National War Services (Mr. Thorson) had to admit that it is impossible to say at the present time when men will be called under that selective service scheme, because the system which is to operate in this respect has not yet been determined. All along a delaying action, to satisfy and appease; then a step; then a temporary appeasement; then another step, until now when the government asked to be relieved from its promises, it got that relief from the people of Canada, and now it comes before parliament and says, "All we intend to do is to repeal section 3. So far as the rest of our intentions are concerned, they shall remain hidden within the council of the government."

I now come to the matter of selective service. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) says that we have conscription to-day in Canada, that the principle had been established, and that his policy is total war. I venture to say that I have read his speech more carefully and thoroughly than has any of his constituents. I have gone over every line of it to ascertain what, in that arsenal of words, is the present intention of the government. What will the government do? What action will it take? I notice that when he quotes utterances of his ministers to support him in the stand he has taken against immediate action he refers to the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley), both of whom are believed throughout the country to be men who are pressing for conscription for overseas service. As I said, I read his speech carefully and I can find no indication displayed therein as to what the government intends to do. In some places it says yes, in other places it says no.

What is the purpose of the repeal of this section unless there is to be action? Is the submission of this repeal proposal to par-