

between industry and industry and between section and section of this country.

Mr. MEIGHEN: There is no doubt at all that in the working out of the British Act difficulties were encountered, and they did not succeed in obtaining all the results aimed at. I do not know of any Act in Britain or in Canada that ever did succeed in attaining all the results aimed at. But I cannot understand the state of mind of a member of this House who concludes that because somebody writes to the newspaper, even the *Toronto Saturday Night*, that there were imperfections in the working out of the British Act, the Act is valueless and worthless. If the hon. gentleman is to reach conclusions on the face of a letter in a newspaper written by some one he does not know, I am afraid he will be driven by his logic to very strange conclusions regarding himself. We can put in a nutshell the difference between my hon. friend's suggestion and our own. He refers to essential industries such as munition works, and he has in mind other essential industries such as agriculture. He alleges that in England, owing to the weakness perhaps of some of the tribunals in certain spots, there were exemptions of variety artists, pool room artists and the like of that. That may well be. If these things did happen they are being cured by appeals to the central tribunal. The same things may occur here, but they will be cured in like manner. But take the system proposed by my hon. friend—here is a farmer with 200, or 160, acres of land all alone on that farm. Right beside him, in the neighbouring village, there is a pool room loafer and the question comes as to what is the best method of selecting one or the other to go to the front for military service. We have the tribunal named under the method proposed here. We place the pool room loafer and the farmer side by side and we leave it to the tribunal to decide which of the two ought to go and which ought to remain at home. Is there a common sense man in this country, is there a member of this House, who would doubt what the decision of the tribunal would be? The pool room loafer would go and the farmer would stay at home to work his farm. What would my hon. friend do? He would take these two men, stand them up side by side, take two straws and have some one there to see who gets the longer straw and who gets the shorter. If the pool room loafer draws the longer straw, he stays safely at home and the farmer goes to the front. That is what my hon.

[Mr. Oliver.]

friend says is absolutely fair and has been found to be the right method of getting men to go to the front.

Mr. OLIVER: I do not want to interrupt my hon. friend but I would like to interject for the benefit of Hansard that I did not suggest any such thing.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I venture to say that no hon. member understood him to suggest anything else. He wants to follow the lot system. Let the hon. gentleman tell this House how he intends that system to work out. He wants us to divide these 100,000 men among the provinces of Canada. I would ask him again to say how he is going to divide them among the provinces and how many to each?

Mr. OLIVER: My hon. friend is giving me a great deal of personal attention and I shall be glad to give him the information he wants. The authorities were good enough to hand out the other day a statement as to the population of Canada, giving the number of people of Canadian birth, of British birth, and of foreign birth, and the different ages—the ages, I presumed, that are covered by the Bill. My suggestion in regard to the levy would be this: I would make up my mind how many of these classes I propose to call.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What classes would my hon. friend call?

Mr. OLIVER: Whatever number of classes I considered necessary.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Would the hon. gentleman have any objection to saying what classes he would call?

Mr. OLIVER: It is not necessary, it is not to the point but I have no objection. Incidentally, and without further consideration, I would say that I would begin at the youngest class and call successive classes until I had covered as many as I thought would be needed. Then, according to population as here laid down, if I were willing to take that estimate, I would credit to each province the number of men that it had enlisted and who had gone overseas or were available for overseas service. Then I would require of each of the several provinces the balance of the men necessary to make up the quota.

Mr. MEIGHEN: On the basis of population?

Mr. OLIVER: On the basis of population; not all the population but the population which is available for service. I do not