

their fitness for these two closely related services, and so ensures that each man is precisely where his blow or his labour tells best. In enforcing this act the Government will proceed upon the principle that the service and sacrifice of any family which has already sent men to the front must be taken into account in considering the exemption of other members of the same family.

There was no thought of compulsion until compulsion became imperative. There was no hesitation to seek authority for enrolment by selection when the necessity for greater reinforcements was indubitably established. It was the enemy—not the Government—which issued the call to arms and compelled a mobilization of all the resources of the Empire. The Government appeals to the people with confidence that the vigorous prosecution of the war is their immediate and supreme concern and that the Military Service Act which authorized the selective draft is but a reflection of the temper and will of the nation.

The Administration in whose name this appeal is made is not the agent or organ of any group, section, or party. There are those among its members who must assume responsibility for the conduct of the war thus far: and such members do not seek to evade that responsibility. There are those also among its members who have no such responsibility. For the Military Service Act all assume the fullest responsibility, as do all for the future conduct of the war and for future measures of policy and acts of administration. It is not suggested that the Government which held office for six years is immune from criticism because a Union Government has been organized, but only that the war is the first consideration, and that to its energetic and successful prosecution union among the people is as necessary as the coalition of political leaders.

No claim of exceptional patriotism or public virtue is made for those who have united to constitute a Coalition Cabinet. But it was necessary to sink differences and overcome prejudices if that object was to be attained. If the object was great enough to justify union and co-operation of political leaders divided by old quarrels and acute differences in feeling and opinion, it is surely great enough to justify the like unity of purpose and endeavour among the electors upon whose decision the fate of the Government and the measures to be taken for the further prosecution of the war depend. In the trenches, Liberals