

SELECTIVE CONSCRIPTION FOR CANADA

"Canada has pledged herself to raise half a million men. A nation's pledge is or should be sacred. The military situation in Europe calls loudly for every assistance we can render. In these circumstances Canada's course was clear and it has been properly expressed in the Declaration for conscription." - MONTREAL DAILY MAIL

Compulsory Service Announced by Premier Borden

System of Selective Conscription to Raise Between Fifty and One Hundred Thousand Men; Premier's Long Expected Action Receives Approval of Press of the Entire Dominion, United Sentiment of Country Standing Behind the Government's Measure of Compulsory Service

BORDEN IS APPROVED

Concensus of Opinion of Local Citizens Favor Conscription

MEASURE ESSENTIAL All United in Desire for Victory at any Price

Mr. W. F. Cockshutt, M.P. "I heartily approve the action of Sir Robert Borden and the Dominion Government, and trust that the support of all political parties will be tendered in this regard as absolutely necessary, and one to have been better taken many months ago. This part of Canada at least has been ripe for such a measure for some time, and it is the only fair way to see that all able to serve may do so in whatever capacity they are best fitted for. Our army at the front has suffered terribly of late, and it is essential to have under course of construction sufficient troops to replace the losses."

Rev. J. B. Fotheringham "I am most enthusiastic concerning the passing of the measure, as the voluntary system had utterly failed some time ago. It is only fair to the men who have gone and to the cause they represent that a selective draft should be made to equalize the existing state of affairs whereby many have gone who should have stayed and many more have stayed who should have gone. I trust that both parties will unite in making the measure one of non-partisan and of national unanimity, and also consider that the city of Brantford should send a telegram of congratulations to Premier Borden."

Very Rev. Dean Brady "No doubt conscription was inevitable, but there is reason in a way to regret its enactment. It would be more attached to Great Britain by voluntary bonds than by those of compulsory service. The Allied nations are united, however, in a struggle against militarism and the supremacy of brute force, and our utmost energies must be devoted to the restoration of the freedom of the world. "Canada responded nobly to the call under the voluntary system, and we had hoped that the stigma of compulsion might not be necessary. Continued on Page Eight

Weather Bulletin Toronto, May 19. Pressure is high over the south Atlantic coast and over Manitoba while a trough of low pressure extends from Lake Superior to the southwest. A few light local showers have occurred in Ontario and the Maritime provinces, but the weather over the Dominion has been for the most part fair. Forecasts. Fresh southwest winds, showers or thunderstorms before night. Sunday—Northwest winds, fair.

By Courier Leased Wire Quebec, May 19.—The Chronicle (Conservative) says commenting on the selective conscription: "Premier Borden has announced selective conscription for Canada. In taking this action he will have the support of all right minded and patriotic citizens. The time is critical and the voluntary system has long outlived its usefulness. "The selective draft is the only businesslike plan. The volunteer system takes men into the ranks who should not be there. It effectually shields the slacker who should be there. Now-a-days a nation must organize itself from top to bottom, from the chopper and plowman to the commanders on land and sea. The war is fought also on the farms, in the kitchens, in the banks, on the railroads, and in the factories."

Ottawa, May 19.—(Ottawa Journal-Press)—When Congress at Washington passed the compulsory military service bill a sigh of relief went up in Canada. We all realized from our own experience with the system of voluntary enlistment that only by selective conscription in some form could the United States rise to its full stature in the war against the Teuton menace, and avoid many pitfalls making for weakness and impotence. A similar sigh of relief will go up in Canada over the announcement of Sir Robert Borden. The announcement will not come as a surprise. During the past few weeks opinion has been crystallizing through the country that it was the only alternative if Canada was not to be disgraced in the eyes of the world. We have no hesitation in saying that all over Canada there has been in these recent weeks a striking change in public opinion on the subject. We would not even except Quebec from this assertion.

Ottawa, May 18.—"It is my duty to announce to the House that the proposals will be made on the part of the Government to provide a compulsory military enlistment on a selective basis such reinforcements as may be necessary to maintain the Canadian army in the field as one of the finest fighting forces in the Empire," said Sir Robert Borden today at the conclusion of one of the most momentous statements which a Canadian Prime Minister has ever addressed to the House of Commons. He said "The number of men required will not be less than 50,000 and will probably be 100,000. These proposals have been formulated in part they will be presented to the House with the greatest expedition that circumstances will permit. I hope that when they are submitted all the members of the House will receive them with a full sense of the greatness of the issue involved in this war with a deep realization of the sacrifice that we have already made, and of the purpose for which it has been made, and with a firm determination that on our part we will do our duty in this struggle to the very end, whatever it may be."

It had been anticipated that the Prime Minister would make an important pronouncement upon the results of his recent visit to England, and the gallery of the chamber was filled by an expectant audience. It had not been made known, however, that the government's plan for dealing with the recruiting situation would be the close of a speech which occupied two hours in delivery. It was preceded by a careful analysis of war conditions leading up to Prime Minister's conclusion that the conflict would not be ended this year, and that a great effort still lay before the allied nations. The Premier's Speech. Sir Robert said: "Now as to our own efforts in this war, and here I approach a subject of great gravity and seriousness, and I hope with a full sense of the responsibility which devolves upon myself and upon my colleagues, and not only upon this country, but upon the members of this Parliament and the people of this country. We have four Canadian divisions at the front. For the immediate future there are sufficient reinforcements. But four divisions should be maintained without thorough provisions for future requirements. If these reinforcements are not supplied, what will be the consequence? The consequence will be that the four divisions will dwindle to three; the three will dwindle to two, and Canada's effort, and by the press of Canada, I believe that the time has come when the authority of the State should be invoked to provide reinforcements necessary to sustain the gallant men at the front who have held the lines for months and who have proved themselves more than a match for the best troops the enemy could send

against them and who are now fighting in France and Belgium that Canada may live in the future. No one who has seen the positions which our men have taken, whether at Vimy Ridge, at Courcolette or elsewhere can realize the magnitude of their task or the splendid resourcefulness which its accomplishment demanded. A Message for Help "Nor can anyone realize the conditions under which the war is being carried on. I have been somewhat in the midst of things at the front, yet I know I cannot realize what life in the trenches means. Yet I can realize it better than those who have not been as near the front as I have been. I bring back to the people of Canada from these men a message that they need help badly, that they need to be supported, that they need to be sustained, that reinforcements must be sent to them. Thousands have made the supreme sacrifice for our liberty and preservation. Common gratitude apart from all other considerations should bring the whole force of this nation behind them. I have promised, in so far as I am concerned, that help will be given. I should feel myself unworthy of the responsibility devolving upon me if I did not fulfill that pledge. I bring a message from them. Yes a message from the men in the hospitals who have come back from the very valley of the shadow of death, many of them maimed for life. I saw one of them who had lost both legs, pretty well up to the hips, and he was as bright, as cheerful, as brave and as confident of the future as any one of the members of this House, a splendid brave boy. But is there not some other message? Is there not a call to us from those who have passed from the shadow, into the Light of Perfect Day, from those who have fallen in France and Belgium, who have died that Canada may live, is there not a call to us that their sacrifice shall not be in vain? "I have had to take these matters into consideration and I have given them my full consideration. I realize the responsibility is a serious one but I do not shrink from it. Therefore it is my duty to announce to the House that early proposals will be made on the part of the Government to provide by compulsory military enlistment on a selective basis, such reinforcements as may be necessary to maintain the Canadian army today in the field as one of the finest fighting forces in the Empire. The number of men required will not be less than 50,000 and will probably be 100,000. These proposals have been formulated in part, and they will be presented to the House with the greatest expedition that circumstances will permit. I hope that when they are submitted all the members of the House will receive them with a full sense of the greatness of the issue involved in this war, with a deep realization of the sacrifice that we have already made, and with a firm determination

BROTHERS KILLED ON SAME DAY

Ptes. E. A. and T. L. Wright Mount Pleasant, Injured Together OTHER CASUALTIES Private Jos. Reansbury Makes the Supreme Sacrifice

To countless homes throughout Brant County, as well as through the entire Dominion, the fateful yellow telegram of the War Office brings daily sad tidings from the battlefields, but seldom it is that the casualty list bears such a two-fold blow as that struck yesterday at Mr. and Mrs. Wright, Mount Pleasant, by the announcement of the wounding of their two sons upon May 5. The two young men went overseas together with an early draft. Pte. E. A. Wright is suffering at present from gunshot wounds in the right arm, while his brother, Pte. T. L. Wright is in a general Hospital at Rouen, a victim of slight gunshot wounds in the chest and wrist. Pte. J. Reansbury. An official telegram this morning conveyed to Mrs. Reansbury, 41 Palace street, the sad intelligence that her husband, Pte. Joseph Reansbury, Continued on Page 8

RUSSIAN CABINET IS NAMED

Portfolios of New Ministry Are Distributed Among Various Classes. AGREEMENT REACHED. By Government and the Democratic Parties in Country. APPEAL TO PEOPLE Made by Minister of War Kerevsky to Great Effect

Petrograd, via London, May 19.—The Government and democratic parties have agreed to distribute the portfolios of the new cabinet as follows: Premier and minister of the Interior, Prince Lvoff. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tereschenko. Commerce and Industry, Konov-aloff. State Controller, Godneff, Socialist. Labor, Skoboleff. Justice, Perevezeff. Food and Supplies, Pleschekonoff, Socialist. War and Marine, Kerevsky. Finance, Shingaroff. Posts and Telegraphs, Tseretelli. Ways and Communications, Nekrassoff. Education, Manuiloff. Professor Grimm is appointed minister for affairs concerning the constituent assembly and Prince Shakhovskoy, secretary for the first duma, is minister of public aid. An Appeal

Petrograd, May 19.—via London —Minister of War, Kerevsky addressing the Congress of peasants announced his determination to introduce an iron discipline in the army. He made an impassioned appeal for support in restoring the morale of Russia's military forces and his speech was greeted with enthusiastic applause. A great demonstration occurred after he had completed his address. The delegates embraced the minister and carried him on their shoulders to his automobile. M. Kerevsky said in part: "We must before everything consolidate the civic liberty the revolution gave us, and we shall not do this if each does not do his duty to his country with complete self-sacrifice. Let us show the world we know not only how to destroy, but also how to create. "Soldiers, sailors and officers, I call on you to make a last heroic effort. I am your servant. Help me to show the world that the Russian army is not a demoralized temple, but is strong and formidable capable of making itself respected and of defending the free republic of democratic Russia. "It may appear that I, a civilian, who was never a soldier have undertaken the heavy task of restoring discipline in the army, but I accept it because I understand that this discipline is based on your duty and reciprocal respect. I have never known what this discipline is but nevertheless propose to introduce an iron discipline into the army and I am sure I shall succeed. "I am shortly going to the front. Allow me, therefore, to say in the trenches that the Russian peasants wish to have the land which belongs to them and that no force shall take it from them. But also allow me to say that the peasants demand, in order to achieve this object, that everyone shall do his duty in a spirit of self-sacrifice."

Will Stay in War to the End. "As to the methods which Canada must take with regard to the prosecution of the war, I have only this to say: that Canada intends to remain in the war to the end, until victory has been won. As to the methods which we are to adopt in order to bring our men to the front, and fulfill to the end the duty that we are all determined to fulfill, a good deal of consideration is to be given before the traditional policy followed by this country shall be set aside. I make at present no observation. The Government tell us that they have a new policy to offer us, and I have only this to say: Will Give Fair Consideration "That whenever that policy is made known to us, we shall receive and consider it in the same spirit that we have determined since the outbreak of the war to assume towards all the proposals of the Government, that is, to give them due and fair consideration, reserving to ourselves the liberty of free British subjects to discharge our duties in the way we consider they ought to be discharged. I am not going to say we should adopt this or reject that; that we should reject this or reject that. The only thing I say, and as to which I pledge the word and judgment of those who sit beside me, is that we have no intention other than to remain in the war to the end, and we are determined that we shall do our duty to the best of our judgment, and in such a way as to insure that the best methods are adopted to bring about that victory for which we are all longing, and which we all hope will certainly come, whether it comes early or late."