

THE WAR

Issues Discussed by Newton W. Rowell

A PERSONAL STATEMENT

To His Own Constitutents at Hickson, North Oxford, July 26th, 1917

"The Military Service Bill has cut clear across party lines. The majority in the House of Commons and the minority as well are made up from members of both parties.

"You all know my position. For nearly three years I have been giving my best thought and attention to the issues of this war and Canada's participation in it. I am convinced that by a proper organization of our manpower and resources we can reinforce and maintain our present divisions at the front without interfering with agriculture which is also vital to the nation's life, or the other essential industries which must be maintained if the war is to be successfully prosecuted. The experience of other countries at war proves that we can do this. And when this has been done, in view of what other nations have already accomplished, our sacrifice will be less in proportion than that of any nation which entered the war at the time we did.

"In order that I might better understand the real situation, I visited the battle-front last year and have endeavoured to keep in touch with conditions at the front ever since. I spent some weeks looking into the situation in Great Britain and France. I found both countries putting forth unprecedented efforts and making unparalleled sacrifices to achieve victory. I have been in close touch with the recruiting situation in this province, since the outbreak of the war, and I know something of the recruiting conditions in the other provinces.

A DEFINITE CONCLUSION

"Applying my best judgment to the conditions as I found them and knew them, I reached the conclusion some months ago that Canada could not continue to reinforce her men at the front, could not maintain her position in the battle-line, could not continue her struggle for her own freedom under the voluntary system. Having reached the conclusion that compulsory