

A striking feature of the pre-session reports is the almost unanimous confidence in Quebec that the Prime Minister, by some sort of "bombe" or "tour de force", would master the situation without making concessions. Two Quebec centres, however, reported that conscription was expected sooner or later.

b) P.C. 8891 - Comment on the extension of service of NRMA personnel is not yet sufficient for more than a tentative analysis. English-speaking areas generally report relief and satisfaction, with suggestions that it should have been done "long ago" or at least when Mr. Ralston made his first report. Some comments are to the effect that it is "all right as far as it goes" but does not go far enough. Several letters report misgivings as to the "discrimination" involved in drafting only 16,000; parents of NRMA men in North Winnipeg are said to be "quite satisfied so long as all are on an equal basis".

Quebec comment includes some reports of strong opposition, and other expressing resignation to the necessity of conscription to replace casualties and relief that the measure goes no further than it does. A report from Beauceville says that the reaction was not so strong as was expected and that most people hope the French-speaking ministers will keep their portfolios. Hostile reports predict grave political consequences, term the move a "political manoeuvre" and suggest that the conscriptionists are more interested in sending French-Canadians overseas than in getting reinforcements.

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