

of the suggestion of the hon. member for Edmonton.

Mr. PUGSLEY: All that I proposed to state was what Sir Joseph Ward had told me.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I did not think my hon. friend would say he was in favour of the suggestion of the hon. member for Edmonton.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The hon. member for Edmonton is usually very sound in his views.

Mr. MEIGHEN: But there are exceptions, my hon. friend will admit.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Very rarely.

Mr. MARCIL: Is any number of men specifically mentioned in the New Zealand Act?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I think not.

Mr. MARCIL: As there is to be no registration in Canada, how do the Government propose to ascertain the number of men available for the firing line? Will a census be taken in every municipality, or will the Government wait for the men to report? If the men do not report, what will happen to them? If 200,000 men report and only 100,000 are needed, how will the selections be made?

Mr. MEIGHEN: We will find out how many men are available by the number of men who report. We do not anticipate that there will be failure to report. We have confidence that the people of Canada in every part of this country will obey the law and report, and from that reporting we shall know the number available for service from each class as it is called. My hon. friend asks what we shall do if too many report. In the first place, it is quite clear that there will not be too many. From the first class there will not be 100,000, probably not half of that, but after the first class has been called we shall be able to tell how many the second class will produce, and if there is any possibility that it will provide too many the principle we shall follow will be to divide it into sub-classes. Should there be only some very few over, I will not say what should be done, but I will say what might be done. The men might be taken in order of age, the older ones being released, until the exact number required was obtained.

Mr. MARCIL: I put the question because I saw by the papers last week that the Minister of Inland Revenue had been making a calculation which was published in an inter-

view in the Quebec papers that 10 men from each of the 1,200 municipalities in the province of Quebec would produce 12,000 men. Montreal would give 10,000, according to its population, bringing it up to 22,000. Quebec would give 1,000, making 23,000, and 3,000 more would be found in the other smaller towns, bringing the quota up to 25,000. I do not know whether this was really said by the minister or not, or whether it was authorized, or is really the intention of the Government.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I saw some report of the suggestion. I simply observe that it differs very radically from the views of the member for Edmonton.

Mr. MARCIL: It would not convey the Government policy?

Mr. MEIGHEN: The Government policy is embodied in this Act. The New Zealand Act uses these words on the question of exemption:

—is exempted for that by reason of his occupation, his calling-up for military service is contrary to the public interest.

(b) that by reason of his domestic circumstances or for any other reason, his calling-up for military service would be a cause of undue hardship to himself or others.

It will be seen the door is still wider open and that the principles are more indefinite in the New Zealand Act than in this Act. We state the reasons, but we do not state that any reason would be sufficient.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: We have had a very interesting discussion, and it shows the weakness of this Act, which, perhaps, is inherent in it and cannot be cured. Section 2 provides that every man is liable to service. My hon. friend from Edmonton submitted an argument, which cannot be contradicted: that by paragraph (a) of section 11, while every man is liable to service every man can be exempted. There is no possible exception. The weakness of this law is that you create a court to apply the law, and you establish no rules to guide the court—you establish no principle by which the court is to be governed. Sub-section (b) of section 11 says:

(b) that it is expedient in the national interests that the man should, instead of being employed in military service, be engaged in other work in which he wishes to be engaged, and for which he has special qualifications.

Every man could come under this section. One hundred men or a thousand men might go before a court sitting in Quebec, or in Ontario, or in Manitoba, or elsewhere,