

**CANADA'S
ORDEAL OF
POLITICS**

If it is true that claims for exemption have been made by over ninety per cent. of those who are being called up under the Military Service Act, the inference is obvious that the alternative policy of making one more appeal for voluntary recruitment would have no success except with the inconsiderable remnant of less than ten in every hundred men. And so the gaps which are increasing in the ranks of our Canadian forces overseas would remain unfilled. It has been argued in an English journal (*The Manchester Guardian*) that, rather than allow ourselves to become embroiled in difficulty and dispeace at home, we should accept the needed reinforcements from the United States and elsewhere; and this view of the case is eagerly followed by those who have always feared that there was a danger of Canada doing too much in the war. But such a policy would not satisfy the wishes of our gallant forces overseas. It is to their fellow-countrymen that they are appealing for help, not to strangers. We may safely prophesy that the overseas vote at the general election will show what our soldiers think of the men who, when they are asked for reinforcements, would offer them a referendum instead. And is it not a little odd that those politicians who have been most strenuous in demanding a referendum, on grounds of alleged constitutionality, do not say straight out how they individually would vote if they got it? All they say is that they will carry out the wishes of the majority of the nation as thus expressed. Meanwhile some outcry is being raised against what is described as an organized attempt to isolate the Province of Quebec. The answer surely is that while it would be difficult for others to isolate Quebec, it might be a comparatively easy matter for Quebec to isolate itself. There are many points of resemblance between the political situation in Quebec and that which unfortunately exists at the present moment in Ireland. The majority in Quebec is taught to believe that those who are opposed to it have a selfish motive for accentuating the differences which divide them, because it pays them in other parts of Canada. So in Ireland,