

vice and sacrifice of any family which has already sent men to the front must be taken into account in considering the exemption of other members of the same family.

ENEMY ISSUED CALL.

There was no thought of compulsion until compulsion became imperative. There was no hesitation to seek authority for enrollment by selection when the necessity for greater reinforcements was indubitably established.

It was the enemy—not the government—which issued the call to arms and compelled a mobilization of all the resources of the Empire. The government appeals to the people with confidence that the vigorous prosecution of the war is their immediate and supreme concern and that the Military Service Act which authorized the selective draft is but a reflection of the temper and will of the nation.

The administration in whose name this appeal is made is not the agent or organ of any group, section or party. There are those among its members who must assume responsibility for the conduct of the war this far; and such members do not seek to evade that responsibility. For the Military Service Act all assume the fullest responsibility as do all for the future conduct of the war and for the future measures of policy and acts of administration. It is not suggested that the government which held office for six years is immune from criticism because a union government has been organized, but only the war is the first consideration, and that to its energetic and successful prosecution union among the people is as necessary as the coalition of political leaders.

NO PARTY IN TRENCHES.

No claims of exceptional patriotism or public virtue is made for those who have united to constitute a coalition cabinet. But it was necessary to sink differences and overcome prejudices if that object was to be attained. If the object was great enough to justify union and co-operation of political leaders divided by old quarrels and acute differences in feeling and opinion, it is surely great enough to justify the like unity of purpose and endeavor among the electors upon whose decision the fate of the government and the measures to be taken for the further prosecution of the war may depend. In the trenches, Liberals and Conservatives fight and die for a common Canada, and a common empire. No party wall divides the wounded in the hospitals. Nor do those who minister to their wounds and ease their sufferings ask as to what party the afflicted belongs. Is it too much to expect that the spirit by which the army lives and triumphs will be as active and as powerful as among the people at home when they cast their ballots and that here as there, the great cause for which we contend will unify and inspire the nation.

But there are other reasons why the

Union government should be entrusted with power. It has pledged itself to the extermination of all abuses and to a wise and bold policy of constructive reform.

THE PATRONAGE EVIL.

The system of patronage in the distribution of contracts and offices which has prevailed in Canada for generations has been the root of many political evils. It has fostered local and sectional interests incompatible with the national welfare and injurious to the efficiency of the national service. It has troubled representatives of the people, permitted the ascendancy of organized minorities in the constituencies and affected the independence of Parliament itself. It may be that those evils should have been overcome long ago. Censure may lie upon successive governments which have tolerated the system. But inveterate diseases succumb only to heroic treatment and heroism has not distinguished Canadian parties in dealing with patronage.

Generally, governments have lived long in Canada and when for many years distribution of patronage has been confined to the party in power there is a natural disposition to adjust the balance when at length the other party succeeds to office. Once committed to the system, influences are recognized and interests created that are not easily resisted or dislodged. It is believed that a government derived from both political parties and strengthened by special representatives of agriculture and organized labor can act with greater freedom and independence than a government which held office under the old conditions.

PATRONAGE TO GO.

Hence the resolution to abolish trading in patronage, to fill public offices by merit and not by favoritism, and to establish honest and open competition in awarding contracts and buying supplies.

It is not necessary to repeat in full the announcement of policy already made public. In carrying out these policies the government engages to stop wasteful expenditure in unwise duplication of railways and to arrange effective co-operation between the public and private railway systems. With the acquisition of the Canadian Northern Railway, the state becomes one of the chief carriers of passengers and products.

If public management is to be satisfactory, there must be vigor in administration and breadth and courage in outlook. Efficiency must be ensured. Consideration of personal or political patronage must be sternly ignored. Accommodation equal to that which the private companies affords must be provided. Measures must also be taken to ensure adequate ocean transportation under national or international regulation if extortionate charges are attempted. For many years in Canada the railway policy was determined not so much by the needs of transportation as by the demands of rival groups of railway builders. As a result we have a great rail-