

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CO-ORDINATION OF RECRUITING AND PRODUCTION

THE problem of raising 500,000 men for the Canadian Expeditionary Force with the least possible disturbance to the economic structure of the country is one which is engaging the attention of all employers of labor. While it is true that the enlistment of 334,209 men for overseas service up to May 31st, 1916, is a matter for congratulation, it has been felt for some time that the recruiting methods used to secure the desired object have been and are wasteful, haphazard and unduly disturbing to production.

During the preliminary stage of the war, when comparatively small forces were raised in haste, the voluntary system was satisfactory, as the enlistment included a large number of unemployed men, whose absence did not interfere to any great extent with the economic life of the country. But when the limit of the Canadian army was raised to 250,000 men and later to 500,000, it became evident that the withdrawal of so large a percentage of the country's citizens could not be accomplished without a serious disorganization of all forms of industry.

As recruiting proceeded it was noticed with concern and regret that thousands of men were enlisting who were urgently needed in Canada, and that many more thousands, who might easily have gone, shirked their duty and evaded their responsibility. As a result of this development, business concerns lost large numbers of highly skilled employees whose replacement was difficult, and the total cost of the war was greatly increased through the enlistment of thousands of married men whose families became a partial charge on the country, requiring the expenditure of immense sums in separation and patriotic fund allowances.

The economic problem connected with the war, which must be solved by the citizen of Canada, is to secure the remaining 165,000 necessary to bring our total forces up to 500,000 with the least expense to the country and the minimum disturbance to all forms of production.

In order to understand this problem it will be advisable to study the following recruiting returns, which have been supplied through Lieut.-Col. George H. Williams, Officer in Command of Recruiting for Military District No. 2: