

and glorified by their suffering. Pride in their valour and their achievements mitigates the sorrow which possesses so many of our homes.

Through what they have done we have a new revelation of patriotism. The nation is clothed with new dignity. But how meanly we shall stand at the bar of history if, through any neglect or failure of ours, the cause for which they fell does not prevail. By the test which they met so steadily and bravely we shall be judged. If their living comrades in the trenches are not supported, shame and humiliation will be our portion. They will have paid a price for us beyond our deserts. What they sowed in honour we shall reap in dishonour.

When it became apparent that the voluntary system was not providing adequate reinforcements for the Army, it became necessary to consider the provisions of the Militia Act empowering the Government to enforce compulsory military service upon all male citizens of Canada between the ages of eighteen and sixty, inclusive. The selection under that law is to be made by ballot; that is, by chance. Under present conditions the public interest cannot be served by a chance selection, but it demands, instead, an intelligent selection based upon a wise and careful consideration of the country's needs, both in the fighting line and at home. Accordingly a new measure to authorize a selective draft of persons between the ages of twenty and forty-five was prepared and submitted to Parliament. Much care was taken to ensure that the measure would not be unfair or unjust in its provisions, that there would be no prejudicial interference with agriculture or industry, that there would be no preference for groups, classes, sections, or interests. The Military Service Act is a democratic measure, calling the rich as well as the poor—indeed bearing more heavily upon the rich in that it is more difficult for a young man of means to claim exemption on the ground that his labour is needed at home for the support of his relatives. It is eminently fair as between the Provinces and as between those portions of our people who are of different racial origins, because it pays no attention whatever to provincial boundaries or racial groupings, but calls up all young Canadians of the same circumstances, wherever they may live. It is the most effective method possible, for it impartially selects the men who can go abroad and fight and the men who should stay at home and work, with an eye single to