

### NATIONAL SERVICE.

When the Government launched its scheme of National Service in September, 1916, the League evinced the greatest interest in it, and considered the proposed innovations with the utmost earnestness and hope. It offered its sympathy and services both to Sir Thomas Tait, the First Director-General, and to Mr. R. B. Bennett who quickly succeeded him. Several debates were held, but the more closely the Government's plans were studied the more unsatisfactory they seemed. Many members saw in them nothing more than an evasion or procrastination of the urgent policy of Registration and Compulsion. Experienced workers in the field of recruiting regarded the National Service scheme as impractical, and a deplorable waste of time and energy. And so it proved.

On Oct. 24th Kirwan Martin introduced a motion which resulted in a Resolution proposed by S. F. Washington being adopted almost unanimously. It was to the effect "that the Government's scheme relating to Recruiting and National Service is absolutely useless for the purpose it is intended to serve, and that the only just method to adopt is that of Registration and Selection, followed by Compulsion." The other clauses of Mr. Martin's motion were adopted without emendation. Perhaps, in the light of later events, the most interesting one was that which called loudly for a Coalition Government. Mr. Martin brought this matter before the League on many subsequent occasions, and worked both here and elsewhere with great earnestness to bring it about.

### SPECIAL CAMPAIGN.

The closing weeks of 1916 saw the inception of a campaign that was to put the *Voluntary System* of Recruiting to a searching test. Col. C. McCullough proposed to turn the fierce whirlwind of an intense united effort on its smouldering embers in an attempt to stir them into flame.

The object of the campaign was to fill up the ranks of the 205th Battalion and to re-inforce the C. M. R.

The Canadian Club lent to the movement all its great influence and admirable machinery.

A strong Committee, under the able leadership of G. E. Main, not only collected all the experience and all the re-