

I have sought to avoid having the question of conscription made a party question. I desire that it shall still be kept a question apart from party politics. In the ranks of the Liberal party there are men who are as strongly in favor of conscription, as ^{there} are others strongly opposed to it. It is for the electors, on this question as on all others, to choose representatives who will give expression to their views. It will be for the new parliament when assembled to decide what further action shall be taken under the conscription act: whether the Act shall be allowed to remain on the statutes, but further enlistments under its provisions held in abeyance pending efforts by the new administration to obtain the necessary numbers of men under a policy which will give first consideration to the soldier at the front and to his relatives and dependents at home; or whether the Act shall be referred to the people; or whether conscription shall be the only method resorted to in order to secure further enlistments of men for overseas service. I believe it is possible for my fellow countrymen to send to parliament as their representatives men who are capable of framing a policy which will be equal to the necessities of every situation that may arise. Had Canada had such a policy since the commencement of the war, the issue of conscription, I believe, would never have arisen.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers
Volume C 48