

that the verdict will be accepted in every part of Canada, even in the Province of Quebec, where it has been said it would not be accepted.

If the result of the referendum is against conscription, then the national war organization will be continued and vigorously prosecuted and every effort made to secure by voluntary enlistment the number of soldiers needed, the same as has been done in the Commonwealth of Australia.

Information will also be secured from the British authorities with a view to ascertaining which is most needed from Canada, men or food.

WHAT IS THE POLICY OF AUSTRALIA IN REGARD TO CONSCRIPTION?

We reproduce herewith the following statement issued by the Hon. W. M. Hughes, Premier of Australia on April 11th, 1917, at the time the general elections were being held in Australia:

"In order to kill that swarm of wilful lies and gross misrepresentations already being circulated throughout the electorates in regard to the attitude of the Government towards conscription of men for Overseas service, it is necessary that I should state clearly over my own signature precisely what the Government's policy is in clear, unambiguous language.

"CONSCRIPTION IS NOT AN ISSUE IN THIS ELECTION. The people of Australia have decided that they will not resort to compulsion to fill the ranks of the Australian divisions at the front. The Government accepts the verdict of the people as given on October 28th last. It will not enforce nor attempt to enforce conscription, either by regulation or statute, during the life of the forth-coming Parliament. If, however, national safety demands it, the question will again be referred to the people. That is the policy of the Government on this great question. It is clear and definite. In accepting the electors' verdict the Government appeals to the patriotism of the people to uphold the honour of Australia by maintaining the Australian divisions at their full fighting strength by voluntary enlistment.

(Sgd.) W. M. HUGHES,

Prime Minister."

Notwithstanding that the electors in Australia had six months previous to the issuing of this statement voted against conscription, we have the evidence that in the Commonwealth of Australia voluntary enlistment is proceeding satisfactorily, and that as the Premier states there was no necessity at that time to put compulsion into force. If Premier Hughes' words mean anything they mean that when the Australian people were put to the test their loyalty and patriotism responded nobly and the required number of soldiers were secured by voluntary enlistment. IS CANADA LESS LOYAL OR LESS PATRIOTIC THAN AUSTRALIA?

THE RIGHT HON. SIR WILFRID LAURIER IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS MAKES A DENIAL.

THE Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier rising to a question of privilege in the House of Commons, on Wednesday, August 1st, made the following statement:

Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege. The House is aware that I very seldom notice any attack made upon me outside of this House, in the press or otherwise, but I find a report of a speech by Sir Clifford Sifton, delivered two days ago, which I cannot allow to pass unnoticed. Sir Clifford Sifton is reported in the Globe of yesterday as having addressed the Canadian Club at Winnipeg, and as saying, among other things:

"Sir Clifford did not think that the people of Canada had any call to find fault with Laurier on the war until the day that the conscription policy was announced in Parliament. Sir Wilfrid now said that he was unable to endorse fully the policy of conscription. His attitude was taken because he believed that it was his duty to the province of Quebec. In other words, Laurier abrogated his title to leadership. The plain, unavoidable and in-

evitable fact was that if Sir Wilfrid Laurier were to win this election Canada would go out of the war."

I have to say in reference to this, Sir, that from anything which I have ever said in this House or out of it, Sir Clifford Sifton could not draw the inference that any attitude which I have ever taken was in deference to the province of Quebec. Neither on this occasion, nor any occasion in my public life did I ever take an attitude in deference to one province alone. The policies which I have opposed were not opposed from the point of view of one province, but from the point of view of Liberal principles and with respect to all the provinces of Canada and irrespective of race or creed. This is my position to-day. I have stated before, and I repeat, that my attitude to-day, on the 1st of August, 1917, towards the war is the same as it was on the 19th August, 1914. I am in this war to the end, but I am in this war not upon compulsion, but upon the voluntary principle of enlistment.