

of obligatory service. Should service become obligatory, enrollment by ballot, as provided for by the Militia Act, might be employed. Should considerably more than 500,000 men actually be enrolled, service would become so universal in Canada that in fact, as in the theory of the Militia Act, Canadians would be living under conditions requiring military service from almost every male able to bear arms. Under such circumstances, any claim to special consideration would pass from those who volunteered before service became universal; because every Canadian would be equally liable for service. Indeed, those who volunteered and became soldiers first, by their early enlistment would have gained advantage over those who followed them. Those who joined first, because of the length of their service, would have greater opportunity of earning commissions and consequently, under existing regulations, of obtaining higher rates of pay and of pension. Again, those disabled and discharged from the service early in the war would have an advantage over those in similar circumstances, who returned to civilian life after them. Those first discharged would have an opportunity of becoming established in civil life before the commencement of the "hard times" and keen competition which will certainly accompany the disbandment of armies and the readjustment of conditions at the end of the war.

The population of Canada numbers something over 7,000,000. We intend to enroll about 500,000 in our armed forces. It follows that, at the end of the war, about a fourteenth of the total population of Canada will return, in a comparatively short period, from military to civilian life. That fraction will include a very considerable proportion of Canadian voters. The experience of the United States provides an excellent example of the abuses which may result when the votes of ex-soldiers and of ex-sailors are permitted to become a factor in the political situation of a country organized under a representative form of government and subjected to the ineptitudes of party politics. The pension evil in the United States has reached great dimensions. (In June, 1916,