

Some may still contend for the narrow construction of the section, while those who claim a larger vision will assert that the operation of the section extends to occurrences beyond an actual attack on our Canadian frontier.

As to the individual liability of our male population for military service section 15 of the present Act their liability to serve shall be divided into four classes: "Class 1, shall comprise those of 18 years and upwards but under 30, unmarried or widowers without children. Class 2, all those of the age of 30 and upwards but under 45, unmarried or widowers without children. Class 3, all those of the age of 18 and upwards but under 45, married or widowers with children. Class 4, all those of 45 and upwards but under 60. The said several classes shall be called upon to serve in the order in which they are referred to in this section."

This is a prudent and sensible classification, but by reason of the volunteer system has up to the present not been acted upon. There may be good reasons for a departure from it owing to special circumstances; but the directions contained in the Act are directory and not permissive.

Section 25 of the Act enacts that "the Governor-in-Council shall from time to time make all regulations necessary for the enrolment of persons liable to military service, and of cadets, and for all procedure in connection therewith, and for determining, subject to the provisions of this Act, the order in which the persons in the classes fixed by this Act shall serve."

The words "the classes fixed by this Act" shew clearly that class 1 shall be exhausted before class 2 is taken, and so on in the order of the Act. During this war very many married men have gone to the front leaving their families to be maintained by the public, while too many of the unmarried men have not enlisted and have remained at home. How far this abstention from service is due to pacifist instruction it is not our province to say. Whatever the cause the result has been a departure from the Act. The volunteer system, admirable in many ways, is to be credited with this departure. It is not for us to