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Why Conscription is Necessary

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Unofficial figures are being used by opponents of Military Service to show that recruiting is heavy enough to meet the wastage in the Canadian Army, and, second, that the Canadian reserve forces overseas are still sufficient to supply all needed reinforcements for the Canadian army of four divisions at the front. The facts are just the contrary. *Recruiting from January to October 31 was barely half the wastage due to casualties and discharges.* As for the present reinforcements in England and Canada, they are rapidly dwindling, and unless there is aid sent immediately from Canada it will not be long until the number of Canadian divisions will have to be reduced. The military authorities estimate that by next April or May the last of the present infantry reserves will be exhausted, and unless there are reinforcements ready by then the heroic Canadian Army at the front will have to be reduced in size.

Of the enlistments this year, barely one-third was infantry, the total, according to the official figures, being only 20,533. There was also recruited for other branches, largely non-combatant, 34,984. The larger part of the recruits were for non-combatant services, while it is infantry men which are sorely needed and will be provided under the Military Service Act.

WASTAGE DOUBLE OF RECRUITS.

During the same period the Canadian casualties totalled 56,671, and there was discharged for innumerable reasons, largely sickness, from the force in Canada and England during the same period 52,052 men or a total wastage of 108,723, or nearly double of the number of recruits. *The total net loss to the Canadian Expeditionary force during this period was 53,206 men.* The official figures show that of the casualties, slightly under ninety per cent. were infantry, or, during the ten months the infantry casualties alone, aside from the discharges, were over 45,000, while the total infantry enlistments were only 20,533.