

The qualities of a good soldier cannot all be measured and defined and placed in categories. There is such a thing as a military vocation; a good soldier needs moral, yes, spiritual qualities which defy precise definition. There are some advantages in letting the men become soldiers who themselves choose to be soldiers. But, again, it is not really a question of comparative theoretical advantages; it is simply a question--or it should be-- of what will work best in practice.

There is, in fact, only one test we are really justified in applying. Let us ask one simple question: which method of recruiting for overseas service, compulsory or voluntary, will, under conditions as they actually exist in Canada, contribute most to a maximum war effort? That is the practical test, and the only practical test, for those who are sincerely and single-mindedly concerned that Canada should put forth her utmost effort.

The government is not only convinced that conscription for overseas service would not contribute to a maximum effort; we believe that it would, in fact, weaken, if it did not destroy, the effort we are making.

Every Canadian who is old enough to remember the last war; every Canadian who is familiar with the history of our country knows that the controversy over conscription divided the country in 1917 and left a deep wound in our