

to defend the autonomy of Canada and the liberties of its citizens against every aggression from within.

"We denounce all proposals of conscription for oversea's service, because they violate the principles of our constitution and the secular traditions of our country; and we declare that the Government and Parliament of Canada have no right to enforce conscription without the explicit consent of the majority of the electorate, as expressed in a referendum.

"We believe that all new efforts on the part of the nation should be directed to the sole object of reorganizing the economic forces of the country, and of supplying the allied nations, whose cause Canada has joined, England especially, with the food-stuffs which they so insistently ask for."

Text of the Petitions circulated by the "Ligue patriotique des intérêts canadiens":—

To the Honourable the House of Commons in Parliament Assembled

The petition of the undersigned inhabitants of..... in the Province of..... respectfully represents:

10. That on the 17th of January 1916, the Right Honourable Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister, said:—"I made it clear to the people of Canada that we did not propose any conscription. I repeat that announcement to-day with emphasis."

20. That on the same day, the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Leader of the Opposition, declared:—"There is to be no conscription in Canada";

Your petitioners relying upon these declarations, therefore pray that your Honourable Body do not pass any act or resolution enacting conscription for overseas' service, or tending to make that service compulsory.

To the Members of the House of Commons of Canada

We, Canadian mothers, ready as we are freely to give our sons for the defence of Canadian territory, but relying upon the guarantees given, on the 17th of January, 1916, by the Right Honourable Sir Robert Borden, Prime-Minister, and the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Leader of the Opposition, pray you earnestly not to adopt any measure tending to apply compulsion to military service overseas.

