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MONTREAL

LIMIT EXEMPTION TO CLASS TWO ONLY

Military Authorities Considering Appeal in all Other Cases—Hearings on Married Men If Certain Exemptions Stood

(Toronto Star.)

A movement is on foot in the military circles that is expected to result in an appeal being entered against all exemptions granted by either local or appeal exemption tribunals which provide for a man being exempted so long as he remains in his present employment. The military authorities are going to ask that all of these men be exempted until Class 2 is called out, instead of being given a guarantee of immunity from service so long as they remain bankers or munition workers or shipbuilders or farmers or whatever they may be.

It has been estimated that this will affect no fewer than 2,500 men in Toronto alone.

This action comes after very serious consideration, and after those behind it had realized that in the very near future the application of the military service act, having regard to their particular exemptions, may result in great injustice and confusion. There is so much to justify their contention that they feel that in the great majority of cases it will be next to impossible to allow matters to stand as they are at present and refuse to make the change which they request.

May Result in Confusion.

Under one of the forms provided for in the military service act a very large number of exemptions provide that a man shall be exempt so long as he continues to be employed "as a railway fireman," or as a "bank teller," or a "munition worker," or "shipbuilder," or "so long as he continues in his present occupation." The question which the military men are asking so pointedly just now is: "When and how can these men be called out?" A bank teller today receiving exemption under that form can naturally expect and legally demand freedom from military service so long as he remains a bank teller. Supposing, therefore, a man determined to remain in that calling for the rest of his life, he is as it can at once be seen reasonably certain of an entire peaceful existence. Married men, in Class 2, and all other men might be called out but Mr. Bank Teller or Mr. Munition Worker can, under the present provisions, calmly continue his labors at his post of more peaceful days.

How can these men be called out? Can they be called to arms in any way except by special legislation for the purpose? Then again, there are men exempted for a year or longer. Are they to remain absolutely free from service no matter what exigencies the next year may bring forth?

Another point the military thinkers are driving home is this. There is undoubtedly a very great feeling against calling out Class 2. When the married men are called to the color grave hardships and a serious unsettling of conditions are bound to ensue. Under new and graver conditions there will be occupations which are now weighed in the balance and found of greater national importance than the army, that will then be held to be of less importance. The effect will be that the single man exempted in 1917 for "as long as he remains, etc.," can continue his work uninterrupted, while married men in the same occupation with wife and dependents would be refused exemption and summoned to do duty in the trenches.

Supposing the situation to be more serious when Class 2 is called than at present, is it reasonable, military men contend, to think that the percentage of exemptions will be fewer. If, therefore, a certain firm had, say, 60 per cent of their men in Class 1 exempted, it might

well be that only 50 per cent of the Class 2 men would receive exemption after the next proclamation. This would mean that 50 per cent of the married men in their employ would be taken to France, while five-sixths of the unmarried men pursued their tasks in peace. Obviously the unmarried men, though equally necessary, should be released to the army first. But if they hold exemption certificates how can it be done? The military authorities claim that the only solution is to change all such exemptions to until such time as Class 2 is called, and to that end intend to appeal them all. Then when the situation demands it, the whole of the men given such exemption will come up for consideration again the moment the next proclamation comes into effect.



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The testimony of General Sharpe before the U. S. Senate's Investigation Committee on the shortage of clothing supplies for the soldiers, appeals to many an editor in the United States as a most remarkable and instructive account of "the circumlocutory routine and the general red tape" of the operations of the War Department.

On the other hand the net result of a canvass among members of Congress and officials of the Government Departments made by the New York Times brings that journal "to the conclusion that the Government has accomplished a vast amount of work considering the short time elapsed since it began to make preparations in earnest; that there had been some serious mistakes and delays but that the activity of the War Department is at last distinctly on the upgrade."

In THE LITERARY DIGEST for January 12th, one of the most enlightening articles in this unusually good number deals with the Congressional investigation of the War Department and voices the editorial opinion of the country upon the disclosures. Many illuminating details are presented that will hold the interest of every reader.

Other important topics in this issue of THE DIGEST are:

America For No Makeshift Peace

Presenting the Results of a Careful Editorial Examination of Newspaper Opinion From All Over the United States Upon the Latest German Peace Propaganda.

The Brewers' Campaign of Righteousness
A Peace Offer Distrusted by Both Sides
Germany's Last Colony Gone
The Company Great Aerial Combat
Launching a Ship Upside Down
Edible Reptiles
Resurrected Art of William Blake
Admonishing a Petted Darling
Shall We Close the Churches?
The Income Tax—An Urgent Duty, a Glorious Privilege

Will the Government Keep the Railroads?
Teutons Squabbling Over Poland
How You Can Save and Substitute
(Prepared by the U. S. Food Administration)
Medical Music
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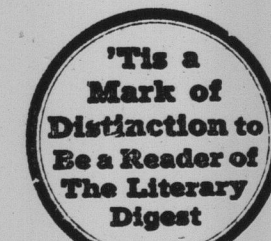
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