

expression. By voluntary enlistment an army of over four hundred thousand has been enrolled.

Three hundred and fifty thousand Canadian soldiers have gone overseas to service and sacrifice on the scarred fields of France and Flanders. Many thousands of them lie in graves hallowed by their blood and glorified by their suffering. Pride in their valor and their achievements mitigates the sorrow which possesses so many of our homes. Through what they have done we have a new revelation of patriotism. The nation is clothed with new dignity. But how meanly we shall stand at the bar of history if, through any neglect or failure of ours, the cause for which they fell does not prevail.

By the test which they met so steadily and bravely we shall be judged. IF THEIR LIVING COMRADES IN THE TRENCHES ARE NOT SUPPORTED, SHAME AND HUMILIATION WILL BE OUR PORTION. THEY WILL HAVE PAID A PRICE FOR US BEYOND OUR DESERTS. WHAT THEY SOWED IN HONOR WE SHALL REAP IN DISHONOR.

### **COMPULSION REQUIRED.**

When it became apparent that the voluntary system was not providing adequate reinforcements for the army, it became necessary to consider the provisions of the Militia Act, empowering the Government to enforce compulsory military service upon the male citizens of Canada between the ages of eighteen and sixty, inclusive. The selection under that law is to be made by ballot, that is, by chance. UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS THE PUBLIC INTEREST CANNOT BE SERVED BY A CHANCE SELECTION, BUT IT DEMANDS INSTEAD AN INTELLIGENT SELECTION, BASED UPON A WISE AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE COUNTRY'S NEEDS, BOTH IN THE FIGHTING LINE AND AT HOME. Accordingly a new measure to authorize a selective draft of persons between the ages of twenty and forty-five was prepared and submitted to Parliament. MUCH CARE WAS TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE MEASURE WOULD NOT BE UNFAIR OR UNJUST IN ITS PROVISIONS, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PREJUDICIAL INTERFERENCE WITH AGRICULTURE OR INDUSTRY, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PREFERENCES FOR GROUPS, CLASSES, SECTIONS OR INTERESTS.

### **A DEMOCRATIC MEASURE.**

The Military Service Act is a democratic measure, calling the rich as well as the poor—indeed, bearing more heavily upon the rich, in that it is more difficult for a young man of means to claim exemption on the ground that his labor is needed at home for the support of his relatives. It is eminently fair as between the Provinces, and as between those portions of our people who are of different racial origins, because IT PAYS NO ATTENTION WHATSOEVER TO PROVINCIAL BOUNDARIES OR RACIAL GROUPINGS, BUT CALLS UP ALL YOUNG