

no conscription in Canada are obvious. Apart from any other, one paramount reason, which is on top of all the others, is that we could not adopt conscription in Canada without giving a severe blow to our policy of immigration. If we are to pass successfully through the period which is to follow the war, and face the enormous debt which we are accumulating, the enormous expenditure which we are assuming, the best way to do it is to have a wise and broad policy of immigration so as to develop our resources. But if it were to be known that conscription existed in Canada, it would, I repeat, deal a severe blow to our hopes in that respect. Why, the very thought of conscription has had a detrimental effect on our settlements in the Northwest.

My attention has been called to a letter published in the New York American of December 26, in which the following statement from a correspondent in Omaha appears:

"Five or six years ago a hundred thousand of Iowa and Nebraska's finest young farmers broke away from their homes and went into Western Canada to take up homesteads and make their fortunes.

"And now these same young men are simply falling over themselves to get back to the old farms in the American west. Hundreds of them are passing through Omaha every week. Some walked across the border—sneaked their way across, in fact, because they feared they would not be permitted to leave Canada.

"Others purchased round-trip railroad tickets and showed the return portion as proof that they were going into the "States" on a visit only. Some had a little cash when the time came for them to get out of the Dominion, but others were forced to write back to the "old folks" for money with which to pay their way back to the old farm. They are all fleeing from threatened conscription."

When I read that I took some measures to obtain confirmation or information regarding it. I must say that my information, while not complete, has satisfied me that the statement is very much exaggerated. That there is some foundation for it I believe, but I do not think the movement has assumed such proportions as are here indicated. At all events, there is enough to show that it is important that we should have at once from my right hon. friend the Prime Minister an authoritative statement upon this point.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN

My right hon. friend has alluded to conscription—to the idea in this country or elsewhere that there may be conscription in Canada. In speaking in the first two or three months of this war *I made it clear to the people of Canada that we did not propose any conscription. I repeat that announcement to-day with emphasis.*

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II

RESOLUTION OF PROTEST — PETITIONS

Text of the Resolution unanimously adopted at a public meeting held at the Monument National, June 7, 1917:—

"We citizens of Canada and loyal subjects of the King, prepared as we are to defend the territory of Canada against all foreign attacks, are equally determined