

that they are making is exorbitant, and unfair to our soldier boys who are standing up in the firing line for \$1.10 a day. I think it is unfair to pay munition workers \$5 and \$7 a day when we are asking the flower of Canada, the finest young men we have, to stand up in the firing line for \$1.10 a day. The Government should increase the pay of our soldiers materially, say from \$2.50 to \$3 per day, and for this purpose they should conscript the wealth of this country as well as our man power.

I am in favour of the principle of conscription. I am not in favour of the present Bill. I shall vote for the referendum.

Mr. JAMES S. DOUGLAS (Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put before the House the reasons for the vote which I shall cast to-night on this Bill. The whole object of the present Bill is to enlist fighting men for the front, and the question arises—and it is a legitimate question—which is the better method of getting these men, whether by voluntary enlistment, or by the principle of conscription as embodied in this Bill? I have seen something of the methods employed in enlisting men in this country, particularly in western Canada, and I have had something to do with it. So far as the province from which I come is concerned, I am forced to the conclusion that we can raise no more men by voluntary enlistment. I do not know that the Government has conducted the voluntary system as it might have done. In fact, I am inclined to think a great many errors have been made. The system of enlisting men when the war first broke out was, in my judgment, absolutely unbusinesslike, and not carried out according to the plan which had been laid down by the Militia Department prior to the outbreak of war. It was the enthusiasm of the people that was entirely responsible for the splendid response which was made to the call to arms on the 4th of August, 1914.

One of the chief reasons why voluntary recruiting has fallen into disrepute in western Canada at least, has been the extreme partisanship which has been shown in the conduct of every phase of voluntary enlistment in that part of the country. I question very much if there is a province in the whole Dominion with the possible exception of British Columbia, which has responded so nobly and given so freely of her men as the province of Alberta. The city of Edmonton, from which I come, has sent over ten or eleven battalions to the front, and I know from my own experience that

partisanship has entered into the appointment not only of senior officers but junior officers as well. In spite of this, however, enlistment has been keen. Men have given up their employment, no matter what it was, and have answered their country's call. I am not prepared to say that the Militia Department is entirely responsible for this partisanship. Unfortunately, under our system of government, party patronage is governed by the recommendations of local committees, and the minister who can resist appeals made to him on behalf of political friends must be a very strong minded man indeed. I do not think, in our province at least, that the Militia Department has shown the proper strength of mind in resisting political influence in appointments in connection with the tremendous war in which we are now engaged. If ever there was a time and occasion when partisanship should have been cast to the winds it was by the Militia Department during this war. I believe that if this Bill is properly administered we may escape from a certain amount of political partisanship.

Another reason why I think voluntary enlistment has failed in western Canada is because of the campaign in connection with National Service. I had the pleasure of hearing both the Prime Minister and the Director General in the city of Edmonton and the city of Calgary. I listened very attentively to what they said and I think I am within the mark when I say that neither of these gentlemen made one appeal for recruits. The whole appeal made in connection with this propaganda was the need for men registering so that the Government would know who were available if at some future date it should decide to call upon men for service other than going to the trenches. Maybe I did not interpret the speeches correctly, but I must say that was the impression received by almost every one with whom I conversed, as to the real reason for the National Service propaganda.

It may possibly be that voluntary enlistment can be revived, but in my judgment it would do a wrong to western Canada at least. We are a producing country and under voluntary enlistment our people have left the farms and productive labour and gone to the front. One of the reasons why I favour this Bill is that it will prevent men of patriotic spirit from enlisting who are now engaged in productive walks of life. If it will do that, it will do a good work. I have every hope that safeguards will be thrown around the administration