

Mr. GEORGE E. McCRANEY (Saskatoon): Mr. Speaker, I would like to read to the Government a telegram that I am in receipt of this evening from Saskatoon in regard to the coal situation. I think this telegram should be in the possession of the House. It is as follows:

Saskatoon, Sask., June 8, 1917.

Geo. E. McCraney, M.P.,
Ottawa, Ont.

Resolution of special meeting of Saskatoon Board of Trade held 8th June, 1917:

Whereas, it has been brought to the attention of this board that the coal mines from which western provinces draw their supplies of coal are in general raising only a small proportion of their normal operating capacity at this season owing to the labor situation;

And whereas, in the interest of railway transportation, power production on farms and in cities, it is essential that the raising of a winter's supply of coal should be proceeded with at once before the small reserve stock in the country is further depleted.

Therefore, resolved, that this board urges upon the Government of Canada the necessity for taking drastic action at the earliest possible moment to secure the resumption of operations at western coal mines and to settle the differences between the operators and workmen and that copies of this resolution be sent by telegraph to the Premier, Sir Robert Borden, and to the member for Saskatoon county, at Ottawa, and the resolution sent to western boards of trade for their consideration.

(Signed) W. P. Kirkpatrick,
President.

I hope the Government will take this telegram into consideration in dealing with the matter.

Mr. HAZEN: I understand that a similar telegram has been sent to the Prime Minister?

Mr. McCRANEY: Yes.

Motion agreed to and House adjourned at 11 p.m.

Monday, June 11, 1917.

The House met at Three o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

REPORTS AND PAPERS.

Copy of Order in Council with reference to regulations governing the payment of separation allowances to the Royal Canadian Navy.—Hon. J. D. Hazen.

THE MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1917.

BILL INTRODUCED BY THE PRIME MINISTER.

Right Hon. Sir ROBERT BORDEN (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 75, respecting military service.

[Mr. Hazen.]

He said: Mr. Speaker, as the Bill which I am presenting to the House has created a good deal of public interest, I shall, by your leave, make a somewhat fuller explanation of its provisions and of the circumstances out of which it has arisen than would ordinarily be the case on such a motion.

Let me first ask the attention of the House to the events of nearly three years ago. It is unnecessary at this juncture to enter into any prolonged examination of the causes of this war or of the purposes for which it was undertaken. Beyond question it was the aim and intention of Germany to assassinate Belgium's rights and liberties; to crush France; to make eventual peace with Russia; to have our Empire stand aside, so that it might afterwards meet the fate of France and of Belgium in order that Germany might dominate the world. For this purpose Germany made a most intense and careful preparation during nearly half a century, and she proceeded to carry out her purpose by methods so barbarous and revolting that humanity stood aghast.

As to Canada's determination, there was never one moment's doubt. Our nation was united in a common purpose. Men of all parties expressed a most resolute and vehement determination to carry the war to victory and to an abiding peace. It was realized by all that the future of civilization and democracy was at stake.

Within six weeks after the war broke out, 33,000 men, fully armed, well trained, and thoroughly equipped, were ready to depart from our shores. Our authorized forces were increased by 30,000 men on the 7th day of November, 1914; they were increased to 150,000 in all on the 8th day of July, 1915, and to 250,000 on the 30th day of October, 1915.

In 1915 and also in 1916, many delegations from all parts of the country came to Ottawa and waited upon the Government for the purpose of urging compulsory military service. They emphasized with very great force the disadvantages of a voluntary system and the need of more men. I realized then and I explained to them possible difficulties, some of which I communicated privately to the leading members of these various delegations.

On the first day of January, 1916, I issued a message to the Canadian people in which I announced that Canada's authorized forces would be increased to 500,000 men. In that message I used these words: