

I should like to add that it was not I who made a trip through Western Canada in the midst of the recent recruiting campaign to find out what public sentiment was on the subject of conscription for overseas service with a view to adjusting the party line to the prevailing wind. My position in this matter is based and has always been based on my conviction as to the wisest policy to further the national interest in the successful prosecution of the war.

It will be recalled that the agitation for conscription was intensified during the recruiting campaign early last summer; and that it died down for a time when the gloomy predictions of its sponsors were disappointed by the success of that campaign.

The fact that it has been renewed once more on the eve of a session of Parliament is not, I believe, without significance. What is even more significant is the political complexion of many of the sponsors of the campaign. I exclude specifically from what I am about to say the perfectly honest and consistent policy of the Canadian Legion. In the brief which the Legion recently submitted to the government, the recommendation of conscription for overseas service was only one aspect of their representations. I refer rather to those who have sought to magnify this one question which affects only one aspect of our vast war