

## THOUSANDS CALL FOR CONSCRIPTION

Mass Meetings in Queen's Park Strongly Endorse the Proposed Measure.

With wild and unanimous acclaim of cheers and applause, hundreds of people, including many veterans of the great world war, adopted resolutions embodying demands that the Canadian Government put a selective draft system of compulsory military service into effect and to stop section, at mass meetings in Queen's Park Saturday afternoon.

The resolution reads as follows: "Resolved that this mass meeting of the citizens of Toronto places itself on record as in favor of the immediate enforcement of a policy of conscription by a 'selective draft' by the Canadian Government. "That it should apply equally to all parts of the country, and that there should be a uniform enforcement of the act, with nobody excluded. "Resolved that in the opinion of this meeting the federal government should take immediate steps to put down sedition in Canada, and immediately take steps to supply reinforcements, by conscription, so that the divisions now at the front will have sufficient reinforcements. "Resolved that this meeting call the attention of the federal government to the fact that certain sections of the country have not done their duty in this war in enlistments, and that a

policy of conscription be adopted forthwith.

"Resolved that in the opinion of this mass meeting conscription is the duty of the hour, to the exclusion of all other questions, and we hereby urge on the government that such an act be put into force forthwith."

Crowds of people were addressed from two platforms, one erected in the southeast corner of the park, where Mayor T. L. Church presided as chairman, and from the old bandstand.

Speakers included Mayor Church, Sergt.-Maj. W. R. Whitton, Pte. James J. Shanahan and Sergt. W. E. Turley of the Great War Veterans' Association, Provincial Treasurer T. W. McGarry, Provincial Secretary W. D. McPherson, H. C. Hocken, Fred Dane and Maj. Charles Sheard.

Veterans of the present conflict marched to the park from their association building more than 100 strong, headed by the 12th York Rangers' band. Many other veterans rode in motor cars to the park. These were all cheered time and again by the people who watched the parade and in the park where hundreds had gathered to hear the speeches.

The Veterans' Association of 1860 was represented by approximately 30 men under Col. A. E. Belcher.

Arguing that conscription was the only fair means for Canada to adopt, Mayor Church, after reading the resolution, declared that Canadians were not now willing to see a make-shift coalition government to permit Quebec to escape the duty which is rightfully hers.

"In honor of the memory of our brave dead the government should enforce conscription at once, and everybody should be compelled to do his duty."

"The British labor party was in favor of conscription, so was the American Federation of Labor, with President Compton at its head. There will be no need of labor unions

if we lose this war. The Kaiser will be the labor union all by himself."

"Canada has done well so far, but is now lagging behind, and the only fair and equitable basis of recruiting is conscription thru and thru. It is an outrage to propose that a vote should be taken on the question when 400,000 of our boys are at the front."

"Wake Up the People," declared Mr. McPherson, "we must adopt a reasonable form of compulsory service. Many Canadians went to the United States to escape military service. But now the United States is our grand ally. The international boundary will now afford no escape for either American or Canadian. Failure to keep up our forces imperils our imperial position. Germany has withdrawn thousands of soldiers from the east to put them on the western front. The military outlook is very, very serious. Let the spirit of Kitchener live. It is our duty to see that the sacrifices of the soldiers have not been in vain. One of the objects of this meeting is to wake up people to a sense of the significance of the seriousness of our position. Let us resolve to do our duty and acquit ourselves like men."

Dr. Charles Sheard said in part: "Canadians are a unit in backing the soldiers of Canada to the last man and the last dollar. Are you going to let these disreputable Germans escape the bar of public justice. No, no. We shall contribute everything that we own, and everything that we have, rather than these disreputable Germans escape the bar of public justice. We will never stand for an arrangement which lets the slacker stay home loafing and making our laws. Under selective draft a man who refuses to do his duty should be imprisoned for ten years. Premier Borden will have the support of every loyal Canadian, regardless of policy or party."

Dr. Sheard then proposed the resolution, and it was read again by Mayor Church and seconded by Rev.

Canon Dixon. Cheers and applause marked the adoption of the proposal. Father Lawrence Minahan said that he had favored conscription ever since the war began, as the fairest, most democratic and logical means of military service.

"As a citizen I have a right to ask my government for protection," he said, "and my government has a right to expect me to contribute my share to the protection. Talk of a referendum on conscription is simply buncombe. You don't take a referendum when a house catches fire. This is no time for debate. There is nothing between us and the fate of Lens and Belgium except our khaki line."

Need New Methods. "Conscription does not sound nice," declared Sergt.-Maj. Whitton. "Men have been found to volunteer in the past. If these men have all volunteered and gone, some never to come back, then other methods must be found that will give support to the men who offered their services when the country called for volunteers."

"If the alien is not conscripted, then he will have the opportunity of taking the jobs of the Britisher who is sent. Is that fair to those who may be sent overseas?"

"Should selective conscription be adopted, then a returned soldier should be appointed on each examining board. Let these decide as to who should not go."

"Let us have done with the people who say 'I am doing my bit. I'm making munitions.' Yes, and the women of Great Britain are doing the same work exactly as the men out here, with the exception of experts. Let the government contract for munitions also call for 60 per cent female labor and also that the wives and female relatives of serving soldiers be the first to be engaged on all government contracts."

Sang an Old Hymn. The mayor's address was followed by the entire gathering singing "O God, Our Help in Ages Past."

Hon. T. W. McGarry, the provincial treasurer, followed in an address in which he declared his belief in the city's and province's loyalty to the conscription measure. He said that he believed that the time had arrived when the people of Ontario were desirous of expressing their opinion in regard to this measure. There was not a day in the last two months that the people were not convinced that we should have conscription in Canada."

Referring to an article appearing in an afternoon paper of Friday and entitled "Is Canada Going On With the War?" he stated emphatically that Canada was going on with the war, and his statement was loudly cheered. It was not necessary for any newspaper in Toronto to ask that question, as Great Britain, her allies and dependencies, had gone to war because a great principle was at stake, nor were we going to quit until our purpose had been accomplished.

Speaking of the result if the measure were not put thru, he said that the four divisions now at the front would in twelve months fade away to three if no reinforcements were sent across. In time these three would become two, and finally the name of Canada would not be represented on the soldiers' strips in France.

"We must have conscription, even if it is necessary to put the revolver or gun up to the man who will not go. The people of Canada ought to be united as one. There is no excuse for any portion of this Dominion failing to take up its burden. This province is united in its determination to have conscription, and to have that law applied to every portion of the Dominion of Canada."

Reinforce Division. Judge Coatsworth said: "We must put something in force to reinforce the divisions at the front. It seemed so clear to the people of the United States, who were not tied so closely to

war as we were, and adopted without a dissenting vote their selective draft bill, and next Tuesday their men begin registering."

There were three times as many young men in Canada just as able to go to the front as those already gone. Many a young man would say, "Thank God my way is clear" after the bill was passed.

Sergt. Turley said that talk might lose the war. The talk of the Jimmy Simpsons of Russia had extended the war one year.

Let us know, he said, if this country was to be pro-German or pro-British. The jubilee of confederation would be celebrated by a people who were heart and soul with the allies. If the heart of the country was sound, we should have conscription; if not, God help those already gone.

It was a crime, he said, for men to say that labor was opposed to conscription. Labor men knew that democracy was safe in the care of British. They might have cause for grievance, but they would have greater cause under the German flag.

"Men are dying because your labor leaders went down to Ottawa and lined up sixty members of parliament as opposed to conscription. They are murderers, and we should be partners in their crime if they are successful."

Ald. Sam Ryding called for a vote on conscription and practically every woman at the meeting in the southeast corner of the park held up her hands. Presentation of the resolution was made by Fred Dane and was received with unanimous approval.

"Canada and the empire is facing the most critical time in the history of the world," he declared. "The action of Canada has a bearing on the work of the allies in France."

Ald. H. H. Ball spoke of the glorious record of England's first expeditionary force.

"Let us not evade the conscription of men by talking about the conscription of wealth," he said. "We will attend to that when the time comes."

He believed that when the men who are called slackers were drawn under the conscription measure they would make excellent soldiers.

Sergeant Shanahan, vice-president of the Great War Veterans' Association, believed there was no necessity for a referendum regarding conscription. He thought it would only be a waste of money.

"I challenge any honest, thinking man to suggest any way to meet the obligations involved," he said. "The conscription of wealth is a very secondary matter when compared with that of conscripting sufficient men to reinforce the men of the earlier contingents now in the trenches."

"The men in the trenches are calling," said ex-Mayor H. C. Hocken, "and if the men at home do not heed the call the case of the men at the front will be terrible indeed."

George Easterbrook, secretary of the Association of Honorably Discharged Soldiers of Canada, replied to certain criticisms of the members of the association in a letter published in an evening paper recently. He said that the association was in favor of conscription. "Each and every one of our members," he said, "is unanimous in voicing his opinion that any true British subject who had to be conscripted should be paid no greater amount than 15 cents per day and that in my way of thinking is far too much."

He said that no man could become a member of the association unless his discharge papers for medical unfitness had a character sheet attached vouching for his good standing. No undesirable could become a member.

FAVOR CONSCRIPTION. The Sir Douglas Haig War Auxiliary have adopted a resolution in favor of conscription.



# Today at 1 p.m., and Daily All Week

## Under the Auspices of The TORONTO WORLD

These pictures include every branch of the British activities in France. They show many of the famous regiments, including those of Canada and the other overseas Dominions. They show them at work, at play, in battle and in triumph of victory. A considerable part of one reel deals with the air service scouting over the German lines, 8,000 feet in the air. Some of the pictures of air-planes were made from another plane, and the beholder experiences the thrill of fighting in the sky; the very limit of daring attempted by man to date.

Will be presented the official film recording the current historic events of the present spring drive of the British armies in France, culminating in the smashing attack which forced the Germans to retreat to the Hindenburg line.

These pictures are the combined production of six military photographers. They bring the war in pictures up to the date of the German retreat and the evacuation of Bapaume and Peronne. They are authentic, official, comprehensive and photographically perfect.

A special musical program by the 16-piece Symphony Orchestra of the Regent Theatre, has been arranged as accompaniment to this film. The doors of the theatre will be opened at 1 p.m. The film consists of six reels, aggregating 6,000 feet. In addition to the battle film will be shown one reel of naval pictures, the first that the British Government has allowed to be taken since 1915. These pictures were taken just after the Battle of Jutland and introduce some of the men who became famous in that engagement.

Behind the Lines With the Transport—With the Artillery During the Barrage—The Troops Move Up to the Line—The Day, the Hour and the Minute—Ruined Bapaume and the British Triumphant.

These Pictures Are REAL, But They Are Not GRUESOME

**AFTERNOONS**  
1 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
**15c and 25c**

**Regent**

**EVENINGS**  
6 p.m. to 11 p.m.  
**15c, 25c, 35c**

**Silk Glove Women, \$**  
Here's a "64" 300 Pairs W quality, white, all have two finger tips. A price is \$1.00 per pair. (N)

**Soldiers' \$1.25 and**  
Your patriotic your natural this Anniversary Sale of Soldiers' goods. Regularly \$1.25. Sale price \$1.00.

**Dainty Crepe de**  
The prettiest Collet and Collar and Silk and Sat delicate flesh simple hemst edged, too, with dainty.

**Women's Regularly**  
Shoes at am Pumps, Col of the best. They are metal calf kid, with them with range of Regular pary Sale.

**Boys' V Wonder**  
We bought cially for th and Junio good mate versary Se today. . . .

**Also Li**  
the popul lar and b and tan. offer at Boys' Ou Sale price.

**Me 50c**  
Men's Sil excellent p shape. Re Anniversary \$2 each, 2 Men's Sil very sma and \$1.25, all hoes, today. Men's Neg double cu others ou grey, col \$1.25 to price, tod for . . . . Men's Fin chief. Sale p day . . . .

**Child**  
Children's made of S dress es to braid, the blue crepe white blo striking f Sale at each . . . .