

COMPULSORY CLAUSES OF SIR ROBERT BORDEN'S MILITARY BILL LIKE THOSE OF 849 Persons from 20 to 45 Years of Age Will be Affected—Number of Men to Be Secured 100,000—Clergymen Exempted—Men May Volunteer Under Proposed Law.

(Continued from Page 1.) We shall stand beside them in the stress and writer of this struggle and bring them such reports that the effort and sacrifice which have been consecrated to this supreme task shall not be in vain. When Canada called them to the colors her honor was pledged to this and I shall do my best to see that the pledge is fulfilled. I never will be responsible for its violation.

An Old Statute. Sir Robert referring to his return from England and his statement to the house said: "I announced on May 18th that the need must be met by applying a principle which, for forty-nine years, has been on the statute books of Canada. I repeat that: There is no principle of compulsion in the bill which I have presented to this house, except a principle that has stood on the statute books of Canada for forty-nine years. Some people afflicted with a diseased imagination stated that I took this course at the request or dictation of the British government. No more unfounded falsehood was ever uttered by human lips. The subject was never discussed between myself and any member of the British government if there had been any such suggestion from them. I for one would not have tolerated it. The government, parliament and people of Canada are the only authorities that can deal with or determine questions such as those which are embodied in the bill that I have presented to this house.

Enacted in 1868. Proceeding the prime minister declared that the principle of compulsory service in the dominion was first taken into consideration by the founders of Confederation in almost the first session of parliament here in Ottawa, and it was decided on once for all that for the benefit of this country, whether within or without Canada, the people of this country should be subjected to compulsory military service. This principle was re-enacted in 1904 by the Laurier government. To emphasize the fact that the government in its legislation was not adopting a new original militia act which made all males from 18 to 60 liable for military service and divided them into two classes. That enactment, he said, was still on the statute books. It had not only made them liable for service, but it had specifically declared that they might be called out for actual service either within or without the dominion.

Even at that early date the house so realized the importance of a system of compulsory service that it had voted down an amendment endorsing the volunteer system.

Compulsion Still Law. "It must be apparent therefore," continued Sir Robert, "that the whole question of compulsory service was taken into consideration by the founders of Confederation in almost the first session of parliament here in Ottawa, and it was decided on once for all that for the benefit of this country, whether within or without Canada, the people of this country should be subjected to compulsory military service. This principle was re-enacted in 1904 by the Laurier government. To emphasize the fact that the government in its legislation was not adopting a new original militia act which made all males from 18 to 60 liable for military service and divided them into two classes. That enactment, he said, was still on the statute books. It had not only made them liable for service, but it had specifically declared that they might be called out for actual service either within or without the dominion.

Never More Manifest. "I desire," he said, "to express my profound conviction that there ever has been and there never will be an occasion when that duty could be more manifest, more urgent or more imperative than at this time. Sir Robert then took up the question raised by the introduction of the new bill. The reason for not acting under the militia act, could be easily predicted. The militia act provided for selections by ballot, but the government believed that it would be based upon an intelligent consideration of the country's needs and conditions. The necessities of agriculture, of commerce and of industry must be taken into account. These who in their present occupations were rendering better service to the state than they could by enrollment in the expeditionary forces must not be selected for military service.

Compulsory Clauses. The compulsory clauses of the bill, said Sir Robert, were precisely of the same character as those which had been in force since 1868. To have amended the old would have been an unsatisfactory course since it would have been necessary to alter perhaps a score of clauses, so many that the legislature would have been less effective, less clear and more complex. "In turning to a consideration of the terms of the bill Sir Robert stated that he did not doubt that on some matters there might be room for argument and suggestion. The government was prepared to listen carefully to all suggestions, provided they were reasonable and did not affect the efficiency of the measure.

Provisions of Bill. Sir Robert after reading the preamble of the bill setting out the need for men and the failure of voluntary enlistment to provide the necessary reinforcements stated that the bill provided that: (1)—Every male British subject who comes within one of the classes described in Section 3 of the act, and who is ordinarily resident in Canada; or has been at any time since the fourth day of August 1914 resident in Canada; shall be liable to be called out as hereinafter provided on active service in the Canadian expeditionary force for the defence of Canada either in or beyond Canada, and to be called within the exceptions set out in the schedule; or reaches the age of forty-five before the class or sub-class to which he belongs, as described in Section 3 is called out.

Explanation of Clauses. (1)—The men who are liable to be called out shall consist of ten classes. (2)—The purposes of this section, any man married after the 11th day of June, 1917, shall be deemed to be unmarried. (3)—Any class, except class 1, shall include men who are transferred thereto from another class as herein provided, and men who have come within class 1 since the previous class was called out. (4)—The order in which the classes are described in this section shall be the order in which they may be called out on active service, provided the governor-in-council may divide any class into sub-classes, in which case the sub-classes shall be called out in order of age beginning with the youngest.

Power to Call Out. The Prime Minister then read clauses giving power to call out the men. Clause four: (1) The governor-in-council may from time to time by proclamation call out on active service as aforesaid for the defence of Canada, either in Canada or beyond Canada, any class or sub-class of men described in section three and all men within the class or sub-class so called out shall from the date of such proclamation, be deemed to be soldiers enlisted in the military forces of Canada and subject to military law for the duration of the present war and of demobilization thereafter, save as hereinafter provided.

The Penalty. Any man who is called out and who, without reasonable excuse, fails to report as aforesaid or to remain on active service where placed shall be guilty, according to the circumstances, of desertion, or of absenting himself without leave and shall be liable to be tried by court martial and convicted and punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or on summary conviction to imprisonment, for any term not exceeding three years.

Under the bill there are to be three tribunals. First of all local tribunals, composed of two persons are to sit in each locality wherever designated by the minister of justice. One of these two men is to be chosen by the senior county court judge of the district where the tribunal sits.

vided for a certificate of exemption which must be obtained by any man who is otherwise, and if granted solely on conscientious grounds should state that such exemption was from combatant service only. Another important provision, regarded as essential upon a person to whom it was granted continuing in or entering into employment under any specified employer or in any specified place or establishment.

This clause, Sir Robert said, had been put in to provide against an employee being placed more or less at the mercy of his employer, and it had been adopted in Great Britain for that reason.

Another provision, made it an offence to make any false statement or to tamper with a certificate; provision was also made that when a certificate was lost or destroyed another one might be issued on payment of a small fee.

Section 13 provided for the transfer to the naval service of any man who had reported for service. As to the date when the act should come into force the bill provides "this act shall come into force on such day after the passing thereof as the governor-in-council may fix by proclamation."

Proceeding the premier said the measure was not intended to be either provocative or punitive. "It is put forward," said Sir Robert with strong emphasis, "in good faith as the only means of ensuring national safety in a time of great peril."

Outside of Country. It was not necessary, said Sir Robert, to meet the argument that Canadians should not be called upon to fight in the territory since the law already recognized that obligation.

"Is there any emergency?" asked Sir Robert, "in the midst of the most terrific struggle ever known to history no one will seriously doubt the answer. The greatest of the nations that were once neutral has at last been obliged to take up arms to defend its rights, to prevent the domination of militarism, the destruction of liberty and the enslavement of the world. Then, if it is conceded that there is an emergency, are we fighting in France and Flanders for the defence of Canada? There are but few members of the House who in speaking of the war have not affirmed that truth. When the Canadians in 1915 barred the path of the German to Calais they barred his path to Halifax, Quebec, St. John and Montreal."

Horrible Captivity. From the North Sea to the border of Switzerland, said Sir Robert, was a line 500 miles long which was being pressed back to the German frontier. It had been a glorious, happy country. Today it was the abomination of desolation. Even the fruit trees had been cut down and the wells destroyed. The Hun had spared nothing. Thousands of its inhabitants, especially girls and young women had been led away by the Germans into a captivity worse than death. Its churches had been destroyed and even its graveyards desecrated.

"That line would extend from Quebec to Toronto," continued the prime minister, "where is Canada's first line of defence against such horrors and barbarities. In the North Sea, back the empire's navy holds back Germany."

Exemption Clause. Sir Robert went into the exemption clauses in some detail. Exemptions could be granted on the ground that it was expedient that the man should not be engaged in military service because he was habitually engaged.

That provision, the premier said, was taken from the British act. The section continued that exemption might be granted where "it appears to be in the national interest to employ a man in other work for which he might have special qualifications." This was almost identical with the British act. Other exemptions are provided where it appeared advisable that a man should be exempted from doing by the tenets and articles of faith in effect at the date of the passing of the act, or any organized religious denomination existing and well recognized in Canada at that date, as to which he in good faith belongs.

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buoy man but always gave prompt and careful attention to the legal business of the province and was not deservingly of the small attack to which he had been subjected.

The hon. attorney-general charged that the former administration in 1911 when they saw a deficit coming transferred the sum of fifteen thousand dollars from current to capital expenditures. As the government admitted a deficit in that year fifty-seven thousand dollars he (Campbell) could not see that the addition of fifteen thousand to it would have made very much difference. The fact that this latter amount was transferred to capital account only went to show how carefully the government had been to see that things were done right.

Mr. Campbell said that it was hardly necessary for him to say anything in the nature of an apology for the excellent administration given by the late government. His object in rising was to set forth the impressions he had gathered in listening to the budget speech of the hon. member for Moncton. He felt it was his duty before going any further to protest against the reference which the hon. attorney-general had made to the collection of succession duties under his predecessor in office. If the ex-attorney-general had not seen fit to promptly draw from the public treasury the amounts due him for collecting succession duties he (Campbell) could not see that any great harm was done by the ex-attorney-general was a very

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