

when conscription comes into force we shall not have a very large number of men to draw from.

As to recruiting in the county of Bruce, in one township of 2,800 people, 159 have voluntarily enlisted. I take this from the number of enlistments given weekly in a weekly paper published in the township. Six of these men have been killed at the front and one has died of wounds. If the same energy in recruiting had been displayed in other counties in Ontario, that province alone would have brought forth every volunteer the Premier has asked for, not to speak of the western provinces and the eastern provinces. I have nothing to say in reference to recruiting in Quebec. The people in that province are perfectly competent to take care of that matter.

We must be careful not to draw away all the help from the farmers. I notice this article in to-day's Citizen in regard to this matter:

The Organization of Resources Committee is putting forth special effort to secure competent help to assist farmers in the Ottawa Valley district, who cannot get help locally, for haying and harvesting operations. The plan is to secure able-bodied men chiefly from the manufacturing centres, who by special arrangements with their employers, are permitted to go to the farmers' assistance for a period of three weeks. Two three-week periods are being arranged for, one to begin on July 16 and the other on August 6.

Farmers desiring this special help should write at once to the office of the honorary secretary, Mr. L. H. Newman, Canadian Building, Ottawa. The suggested minimum wage for these men is the military wage of \$1.10 per day, but the farmer is expected to pay for services rendered.

I believe that before the Bill is put into force, every effort should be made to secure voluntary enlistments, and the greatest effort that was ever put forth by the people of Canada should be in the interests of voluntary enlistment. I think the whole energies of the loyal British people of Canada should be put into force to encourage enlisting. In my opinion selected conscription should not be put in force until the volunteer enlisting has completely failed.

We are asking the farmer to produce. Great care must be taken not to rob the farmers of the help they will require to take off their hay and harvest. It looks at the present time as if Ontario would have a very large crop, and as a great number from the rural sections have already enlisted, it has left the farmers very short of help. We have been asking and urging them to increase food production and at the same time their help has been leaving

[Mr. Truax.]

them. The farmers have made a special effort this year to put in as large a crop as possible. This has been caused largely by the increased prices, and the great call for food production has stimulated them to a greater degree than anything else could. The three Prairie Provinces to the west of us are apparently going to have a fairly large crop. In former years they have drawn from Ontario ten to fifteen thousand of our young men to help in the harvest field. A certain number of these young men have gone West, and have stayed in those provinces until November to help with the threshing and fall ploughing. Some of them take up land and remain there. It must be kept in mind that the West has received in the last thirty years from the province of Ontario a very large immigration, which has steadily, year after year, drained the young men from the older part of Canada. Many of them have taken up land in the West and have become well-to-do farmers.

Many of the wood-working establishments in Ontario are very short of help, and if conscription is put into force, it no doubt will take many young men and farm labourers away from the farmers, and it will also take a large number of young men from the factories, which they can ill afford to spare.

The cost of living during the last two years has increased in many cases nearly fifty per cent. It is true that wages have advanced in a great many cases, but not in proportion to the increased cost of living. In many cases some lines of manufacturers could employ a third more men than they are doing now. The very best of our young men have enlisted and gone to the front. In many cases the best mechanics that we have in the province have gone, and this has left the manufacturers short of skilled help. It is true that the munition factories are paying very high wages, more than factories manufacturing other lines of goods can afford to pay, and so well they might, as I notice that twenty-two of these Canadian firms paid last year \$5,297,279 in excess profit taxes. This great sum was only 25 per cent of their profits in excess of 7 per cent. This would show that each of these twenty-two firms, after paying the Government this large amount, had each of them nearly three-quarters of a million dollars of profit over and above their 7 per cent.

I have no objection to those firms making good fair profits, but I think the amount