

HOUSE OF COMMONS INTRODUCING THE MILITARY SERVICE BILL

'Is there not an appeal from the men at the front? They have answered the call, they have given glorious service, they have put aside all material considerations; duty alone has been their ideal. Unconscious of every thing other than the supreme task before them; I know from my personal experience that they cannot realize the thought that their country which so summoned them to her service will be content to desert and humiliate them. I bring from that spleudid manhood of Canada at the front an earnest and thrilling message that we shall stand beside them in the stress and welter of this struggle, and bring them such support that the effort and sacrifice which have been consecrated to this supreme task shall not be in vain. When Canada called them to the colours her honour 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."

June 11, 1917