

*Plebiscite Act*

limitation in section 3 of the mobilization act, and this is self-imposed by the government. But by the same token, the government has in its possession to-day an opinion from its own law officers of the crown that, notwithstanding the limitation contained in the third section of the mobilization act, it may disregard that and send men out of Canada who are raised on a compulsory principle. So the whole thing is a hollow sham and a mockery; that is what it is. Analyse it, now.

An hon. MEMBER: Don't get mad.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I am not mad at all. I am trying to emphasize an argument. You don't get me mad as easily as that. That is a fact. This question as framed by the Prime Minister is clever. I thought so the minute I heard it. It is intended to fool the people.

An hon. MEMBER: Oh, no.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Oh, yes. You may not like it. As a matter of fact there is no restriction on the method to-day in law or in fact as to how this country may raise men. The whole point of the discussion, all the controversy, rages round the disposition of these men. There is, of course, also a difference in point of view, but that is not the question. There is no commitment in respect of which the government ought to be released in regard to the method of raising men. We have adopted every known method there is to raise men. Why, we have even resorted in this country to the method of coercion in the training centres to get volunteers for service overseas. I do not say that that practice is universal, but the Department of National Defence put it up to its training centres to get so many men from the draftees to volunteer for service overseas, and it depends very largely on the commanding officers, the men immediately in charge of recruiting, as to the methods to be adopted. Some take one method and some take another.

Mr. HOMUTH: Some of them you would not be very proud of.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Yes, I am afraid that is true. But it is put up to them to get the men, and it depends on the temperament of the man who is doing the job as to what method he pursues. But the government—"Oh, we never authorized anything like that!" Of course the department would say that "we never told them to take that course". Last year I saw a questionnaire which was put to trainees, and they were chased "right up into the clearing"; if they were not prepared to volunteer for overseas service, why? Men are

[Mr. R. B. Hanson.]

supposed to sign on the dotted line after giving their reasons, and they are brought before officers and cross-examined then: "Why don't you sign up for overseas?" In some cases they are browbeaten and coerced into doing it. That is contrary to the principle of the voluntary system. That, of course, is not true universally.

An hon. MEMBER: Almost.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): It all depends on the community and the training centre where it happens. I would not say it is universal, but it is true in certain instances.

I ask hon. members to get right down to business and analyse the language of this question. In the light of the law and of the known facts, there is not any commitment; there is not any restriction of the method of raising men. This is just another proverbial red herring drawn across the track to fool the Canadian people—which the Prime Minister has done so many times and so successfully.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

The CHAIRMAN: On the point of order, the words of the leader of the opposition are clearly out of order.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Which words?

The CHAIRMAN: Citation 297 of Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms states that it is out of order to charge another with falsehood or deceit. It is also out of order to suggest that any hon. member has deliberately raised a false issue. The words of the leader of the opposition are therefore clearly out of order.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I did not charge the Prime Minister with falsehood.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): No, I did not.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Neither did I charge him with deceit. I did charge him with trying to fool the people, and I have heard that done a thousand times.

The CHAIRMAN: Words are given as examples in citations 297 and 298 under standing order 41, but they are only examples. What the hon. gentleman has said, to the effect that the Prime Minister had fooled the people, is equivalent to many of the expressions which are clearly given in the rule as being out of order, and I so rule.