

cause, to which Canada has given so much, the backing of a strength at once new and stupendous.

It is admitted that from the population of British or Canadian born citizens of military age amounting to not more than a million and a half, over 550,000 men have volunteered for overseas service. Twenty-five per cent, failed to pass the physical examination, but 450,000 have now enlisted under the British flag. Moreover, Canada has mobilized an industrial army of 400,000 men; 650 munition plants, distributed all over Canada, are now turning out shells at the rate of 800,000 per week. Besides, Canada has the greatest railroad mileage per head of population of any country in the world, and the operation of these railways as well as the operation of other public utilities, further taxes the manpower of the country to the tune of probably 200,000 men.

In Europe, all the munition workers, and a part of the men employed for transportation, would be listed as forming part of the active army, so that Canada can well lay claim to an effective army of over 900,000 men. This means that Canada has mobilized for this war one man out of every eight, whereas France has mobilized one out of six; England, one out of ten; Italy, one out of eleven, and Russia, one out of twenty. The Canadian contribution has astonished the world: none, before the war, would have deemed it possible.

Notwithstanding this remarkable achievement, the Canadian Government now desires, to increase, by means of military conscription, our military forces by 100,000 men or more. What would be the consequen-