

JWP/MP
25.10.41

Conscription for Overseas Service

41742

Canada's war effort in perspective

Since the outbreak of war, there has been a tendency, particularly among those who are old enough to remember the last great war, to give a disproportionate emphasis to service in the army. It is quite natural, but nonetheless dangerous that this should be so. The army has its part, and it may well become a larger part in Canadian war effort. But we must not let the part overshadow the whole. We cannot afford to fight the last war over again, when the enemy is fighting the present war with new methods, new machines and a new strategy.

This disproportionate emphasis on service in the army is being reflected once more in a revival, in certain quarters, of a vociferous demand for conscription for service in the army overseas. Before discussing the issue of conscription, let me attempt to place the question in its proper perspective.

The enlistment of recruits for the army is only one of the many demands which war is making upon Canada's manpower. And we must never forget that our total manpower is limited by our relatively small population. In this war we have a growing navy. While it is true that the number of men in the navy is small, it is nevertheless

*Rullison's
last phrase*