

After men are called they are going to be trained for a month. When they are called, unless they are "postponed," they are liable. We have been given that information. They are then conscripted for the purposes of the Act; therefore "postponement" is exemption.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: For the time being only.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Oh, yes, for the time being only. So it was under the old Act.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: But in this case it is to enable them to handle the crops.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The old exemption was just the same; it never was permanent. "Postponement" is only another name, which seems to sound better to the people.

Now, here we are. We do not know how the "call" is to be exercised, or on what principle "postponement" is to be granted. We do not know how the tribunal which will determine the exemption is to be constituted. We know nothing about it. We are asked to go home and leave that to the Government. We are told that after the men are called and after exemptions are granted—call them postponements, or whatever you like—the men are to be trained for a month, and that three hundred thousand can be trained within a year. That information comes from the other House. I want to know what is the value of a month's training—

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN:—especially a month's training without equipment. Unless the exemptions are to be all sifted and cleaned up thoroughly before the training starts, we are going to train three, four or five men for every one we use for war purposes. Have we the money for that? Have we the equipment? Have we the clothing? Even to-day we have not equipment necessary for the training of the Second Division. In fact, although I cannot speak of the situation up to to-day, I know that until a comparatively few days ago the First Division was not fully equipped, much less was the Second, and still less the Third. Now all these other men are to be called, and they will be trained for thirty days—without equipment. Does this really mean anything for war purposes? We do not know what is to be done with them afterwards. We do not know when the postponing, the exempting, is to be done. If it is not all done first—and it will take a long

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN.

time to do it properly—we are going to train two, three, four or five men for every one who will be used.

I have said many times since the beginning of the session, or near it, that I place very little value upon this registration. The more I hear about it and the more I think about it the less value I place upon it. I cannot imagine how it will be of any value for military purposes. True, it will give a more accurate fund of information to the Government as to the number of married and the number of unmarried persons between certain ages. Beyond that I cannot see that it has any value. Perhaps it will give the Government more accurate information than it now has on the number of persons engaged in farming, or in this occupation or that; but the extent to which the proportions will differ from what is shown by the last census returns will necessarily be so small that it cannot at all affect any judgment of the Government in respect of the Mobilization Act. Suppose the number of persons between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-three amounted to 2 per cent in 1931, and is now 2.03 per cent—it could not change more than that—what difference would it make? It would make no difference at all. We cannot take nearly all of them anyway. The compilation of all this other data about whether one can milk a cow, or can do this, that or the other thing, is just so much waste of money so far as the war is concerned.

When the most crucial Act Parliament has ever passed is to be put into effect and operation, does the Government expect the members of Parliament to go home without one word having been said on the regulations under the Act, or without one particle of light shed on this important measure? If it does, it is guilty of an act of autocracy unparalleled in the history of any democratic land. Imagine doing such a thing, first of all, without specific authority, and, worse still, without Parliament being given even a chance to see and review the regulations, much less a chance to discuss them and make suggestions with respect to them. We come here from all parts of the country. Presumably we are in touch with the people of all parts of the nation. Yet we are told to go home—that we shall hear about these matters through the Press.

Only to-day the Government has laid on the Table certain Orders in Council. I strongly protest against delay in submitting such documents. What use can we make of them now, when we are expecting to prorogue tomorrow? This country has been kept entirely