

And, according to a news report, he stated, on or about November 20, in a public address, that Canada's present system of recruiting for the armed forces "does not meet our needs".

On August 21, Brigadier Panet stated:

Acceptable recruits have not been coming forward in sufficient numbers to meet the quota.

On November 25, Brigadier Panet stated at a press conference that recruiting was lagging badly throughout most of the country. This is what he is reported to have said:

The recruiting campaign which drew many men into the armed forces during the summer has slowed down to a walk and there is now nothing like the required number of men signing up for service.

Surely the evidence which I have submitted is the best evidence anyone can have that the voluntary system has not provided and is not providing the number of men required.

But if anything more is desired, may I call the attention of the government and the house to a speech made by the premier of New Brunswick, at the city of Saint John, as recently as the 12th of January. Speaking at a meeting of the Engineering Institute of Canada, he went out of his way to make several declarations on this question of man-power; and there is no uncertainty about what he said. Among other things, he said this:

In the United Kingdom, in other portions of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and in the United States unrestricted military service is provided for. Can we afford, as a nation, to apply a lesser measure to our contribution?

At the close of his remarks, speaking on the duty of Canada and the question of national unity, he made use of this language, which I commend to the Prime Minister and the membership of the house:

If national unity means anything it should mean that we are united in our determination to stand wholeheartedly behind our Canadian boys who are committed to bear the brunt and heat of battle. They it is who are making, or will make, the real sacrifices in this war. And as Canadians they are entitled to adequate support in every theatre of war where they may be engaged. They are entitled to our assurance that, come what may, they will receive the fullest measure of assistance that it is within the power of this country to provide. Anything less than that is not enough.

On December 16, the legislature of Manitoba adopted a resolution calling for five specific things:

1. Immediate mobilization and utilization of all resources;

2. Employment of all men and women in the most useful way, according to age, training, physical capacity and ability;

3. Elimination of provisions restricting conscription of man-power for service in Canada only;

4. Equitable division of the burden of service; and

5. Dedication of total effort to the single purpose of destroying the enemy.

This is an important declaration by an important representative body. It follows in substance the stand of the Canadian Legion, as presented to this government in November last. Surely this is evidence of a change in public opinion.

And now I put this question to the government and to the house and to the country. Are men needed for the army? There may be some who will still say, as many believed at the outbreak of war, that a large armed force is unnecessary. Let me call some further witnesses and see what they have to say on this point.

The first witness I shall call is again the Minister of National Defence. Speaking over the radio on April 8, 1941, he said:

Man-power and morale are the paramount factors in this war. . . . If anyone has had an idea that men are not needed, I want to say very emphatically that that idea is wrong. Men are needed now, and will be needed in large numbers from month to month.

Again, speaking in this house on November 5, as reported at page 4114 of Hansard, the minister stated:

There has been an idea that the army will play some sort of minor role, that this is really a navy and air force war. Let me say to you that from the views which were given to me—

I assume he is referring to his recent visit to England—

—it was made quite clear that the role of the army in this war is and will be no minor one. . . . But there is no illusion that this war can be finished without an army to meet and, with the cooperation of ships and planes, eventually beat Hitler's land forces. . . . The army supported by the other services must eventually strike the decisive blow.

This is the considered opinion of the Minister of National Defence. Who is there to challenge it?

A further witness is the former adjutant general. Speaking over the radio on September 7, 1941, he said:

There is only one power on earth that will beat Hitler—man-power. Never let it be said that our men were of the best but our numbers too few.

Surely this is sufficient evidence from high authority to demonstrate the need for man-power and more man-power. And where is that man-power needed? Is it needed within Canada, or is it needed outside Canada? Where should the enemy be faced? Should