

my best to see that the pledge is fulfilled. I never will be responsible for its violation.

COMPULSORY SERVICE NOT NEW

Returning on May 14th, I announced on May 18th that the need must be met by applying a principle which, for forty-nine years, has been on the statute book of Canada. I repeat that: There is no principle of compulsion in the Bill which I have presented to this House, except the principle that has remained on the statute book of Canada for forty-nine years. Some people afflicted with a diseased imagination have asserted that I took my present course at the request or dictation of the British Government. No more absolute falsehood was ever uttered by human lips. The subject was never discussed between myself and any member of the British Government; if there had been any such suggestion from them, I for one, would not have tolerated it. The Government, Parliament and people of Canada are the only authorities that can deal with or determine questions such as those which are embodied in the Bill now presented to this House.

The principle of compulsory service in this Dominion was first enacted in 1868, under a government in which Sir George Etienne Cartier was Minister of Militia and Defence. It was re-enacted with a slight change in form, but no change in meaning, in 1904, by the Government of my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). In order that there may be no question about this, it is appropriate that I should give a short review of what took place in 1868 and should also deal with the amendment made in 1904.

By the Militia Act of 1868, introduced by Sir George Etienne Cartier, it was enacted—(section 4)—as follows:

4. The militia shall consist of all the male inhabitants of Canada, of the age of eighteen years and upwards, and under sixty—not exempted or disqualified by law, and being British subjects by birth or naturalization; but Her Majesty may require all the male inhabitants of the Dominion, capable of bearing arms, to serve in case of a *Levee en Masse*.

By section 5 it was provided that the male population so liable to serve in the militia, should be divided into four classes. This enactment is still in the statute book.

Section 16, subsection 3, provides that:

The enrollment shall be held to be an embodiment of all the militiamen enrolled, and shall render them liable to serve under the provisions of this Act, unless exempt by law.

Section 61 enacted as follows:

Her Majesty shall call out the militia, or any part thereof, for actual service, either within or without the Dominion, at any time, whenever it appears advisable so to do by reason of war, invasion, or insurrection, or danger of any of them; and the militiamen, when so called out for actual service, shall continue to serve for at least one year from the date of their being called out for actual service, if required so to do, or for any longer period which Her Majesty may appoint.

ANTI-CONSCRIPTION IN 1868

This Bill gave rise to discussion in Parliament, as was natural. On the 12th of May, 1868, on a motion to go into committee on the Bill, Mr. Dorion moved, in amendment, seconded by Mr. Mackenzie: