

Registration and allotment would assign them or others to their places as producers and remove all consciousness of shirking.

The voluntary system will produce an after-war aristocracy of those who enlisted, and another class who will be looked down upon because they did not.

You should take steps to secure our 500,000 men, so that there will be no subsequent animosities.

2nd. The voluntary system is too expensive, not only in a monetary sense, but it diverts too much human energy.

There are to-day battalions, who, after three months' recruiting, are less than half filled up with men, but with a full complement of officers. Most of their time is wasted so far as real essential drill is concerned until the unit is recruited approximately to strength.

It has been estimated that it costs the country five dollars per day to keep each recruit in training. A battalion taking six months to recruit (and some hereafter will take much more), means a direct cost of approximately \$300,000 before the unit is ready to go into camp at full strength and get the essential training there. To this enormous cost is to be added the loss of the men's time spent in chasing after recruits and taking drill over and over again long before the unit is completed. All of which drill has to be gone over again until the early recruits are spirit broken and heart sick. I submit that hereafter the country will be impoverished to the extent of half a million dollars per battalion more if enlisted by the voluntary system than if raised under a registration or draft system wisely carried out.

It therefore follows that to obtain the 200,000 men yet needed it will cost the country approximately \$100,000,000. Deduct from this the cost of a proper registration and there still remains an appalling loss to be faced chargeable to voluntarism.

Thirdly, may I respectfully draw your attention to the fact that the British Government, through dilly dallying with this question, seems to have arrived at the brink of the precipice. I also beg to refer you to an article in the Nineteenth Century for February, by Mr. J. Ellis Barker on "Democracy and the Iron Broom of War," in which, among other things, he points out the need for a strong, over-mastering will in cases of stress, if democracy is to survive.

Canada is to-day looking TO YOU to exercise that will and save us from a future of self condemnation and regret.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) OLIVER HEZZLEWOOD.