

8. In either case it will probably become impossible for Government to carry on under Mr. King, Mr. Bracken, or any other leader without a dissolution. If conscription is introduced against the united vote of the French-speaking members of the Government and of the House, there will almost certainly be civil disorder. Certainly the Liberal party will lose all French-speaking support and between sixty and seventy seats will elect representatives of extreme nationalist tendencies both political and economic. Canadian unity (which is fundamentally a much more real thing than is often supposed) will be set back for a generation. No party - Progressive Conservative, C.C.F., Liberal, or Nationalist - will have a substantial following in both French-speaking Canada and English-speaking Canada. We will have Government by blocs. We will have national animosity at a new high.
9. If the Government splits on the issue of conscription, either by introducing conscription or not introducing conscription the result would inevitably be disunity approaching chaos and almost certainly will require steps to be taken either by way of an immediate election or to preserve order which would result in our getting less reinforcements than we are now making available through the voluntary system.
10. For these reasons it might be possible and desirable not to impose conscription at all. How much of a loss it would cause in English-speaking Canada will depend on the casualties, the number of volunteers, the duration of the war and so on. Assuming heavy losses of seats in English-speaking Canada, it would still be possible to carry on a Government and the Liberals would remain the only national party. Almost certainly they would recover all their losses at the general election following the next. A Government which stood together to do everything short of conscription might be able to carry the support of a great majority of English-speaking Liberals today, provide Canada with continuing government and offer the country the only hope of a thoroughly national party during the years ahead. For such reasons it might be desirable if it were possible for the Government to take a united stand to do everything short of conscription.