

plebiscite vote. However, once the bill passed I went out and endeavoured to get the largest possible "yes" vote.

I am proud to say that in Saskatchewan the vote was almost five to one "yes". In my constituency of Qu'Appelle it was practically a six to one "yes" vote. No matter what the Prime Minister said last Wednesday as to what this vote meant, I say that at least 90 per cent of those people who made that vote a six to one "yes" vote thought they were really voting for conscription. What did the legion which took part in the campaign expect? What did the men on active service expect? When I was endeavouring to get the people in my province to vote "yes" I quoted from a broadcast made by the Prime Minister on April 7, and I should like to quote from that broadcast again. After pointing out the dangerous situation that existed in Canada, both east and west, and in Europe, the Prime Minister said:

We cannot defend our country and save our homes and families by waiting at home for the enemy to attack us. Every country that has stood behind its own defences in this war has sooner or later been attacked. To remain on the defensive is the surest way to bring the war to Canada.

And again:

We must go out to meet the enemy before he reaches our shores.

I should like to ask the Prime Minister what he meant when in appealing for a "yes" vote he said that we cannot save Canada by staying at home. Was that not practically saying to the people, "If you release me from this moral obligation, in order to save Canada we will send soldiers to any theatre of war and will meet the enemy before he reaches our shores"? That was the logical conclusion for the people of Canada to arrive at. They released the Prime Minister from his pledge. I recall on one occasion I put it that the people of Canada were exchanging pledges with the Prime Minister. They released the Prime Minister from his moral pledge, but they expected that he would follow up what he said in that broadcast.

We appreciated the fact that the government had information which the public could not have, but we expected that the facts would be laid before parliament so that parliament might decide the case on its merits. I have quoted the words he used. Surely the people of Canada had a right to expect something more definite. They expected that this question would be brought before parliament so that we would be given a chance to discuss it. I believe when the people of Canada released the Prime Minister from his pledge they were willing to pledge themselves to assist the

government in making Canada's war effort more effective and if necessary to suffer greater sacrifices. The people wanted an opportunity to demonstrate their national resolution and determination to win this war in Canada's darkest hour, no matter what sacrifice might be needed.

During the campaign the people were told of the difficulties and the dangers that Canada was facing. It was really an education for the people of Canada. The Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, members of the government and nearly all the members of the House of Commons endeavoured to tell the people the true situation with respect to the war. The people learned a great deal about Canada's war effort. I quoted from the many pamphlets and other information that had been put out in this connection, and I know the people appreciated it. On one occasion I had the privilege of having the hon. member for Regina City (Mr. McNiven) with me in the town of Indian Head, and the information he gave to the people in that crowded hall was worth while. I complimented the hon. member highly for giving them that information, which they were entitled to receive at first hand from an authoritative source. It did much to bring about the almost solid "yes" vote in that town of almost 2,000 people.

The hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Douglas) last night dealt with an important point, namely, that this amendment will give power to the military authorities to bring military service for overseas into force at almost any time. Naturally the military authorities will first confer with the Department of National Defence, the Department of National War Services, and the government, who I have no doubt will act upon the advice thus received from the military authorities.

It has been said that parliament will not have the opportunity of discussing the form of conscription that will be brought in. It is true that there is no act of parliament now for conscription overseas, and there is no indication that we shall have an opportunity of discussing such a measure. But I do want to say, with other speakers, that Canada's contribution in the production of food and the necessary munitions of war, tanks, aeroplanes, guns and ships, must not be allowed to suffer. We must have complete mobilization and organization of our resources so that there shall be no lessening of the production of food and the munitions of war.

I referred a few minutes ago to the figures that were the result of the national registration which was taken about two years ago.