

not exactly what would be required at the present time, but something similar should be law now. A number of young Canadians are, to their shame, leaving Canada for the United States to avoid military service. Most of these, if they were compelled to go overseas, when alongside men who from a sense of duty have volunteered for active service, would doubtless make good soldiers; and many of them would, if they saw some of the consequences which would ensue from such desertion of the flag (appropriate laws being enforced), prefer to take up such branch of service as they might best be fitted for. The pains and penalties for such cowardly desertion (or perhaps it would be fairer to say, as to some, such thoughtless desertions and disregard of loyalty and duty), should be the loss of property, if they have any, the declaration that they had lost their British citizenship and were thenceforth aliens, and that they had lost the status which they had in the country. Apparently no action has been taken to prevent this exodus or to keep a record of those who thus decamp.

If the Militia Act had been put in force as an emergency measure at the beginning of the war, as a matter of course, the present situation would not have been so difficult and unmanageable as it is now alleged to be. Some partial enforcement of the Act is spoken of; but this is not what the situation demands so far as the proposal has been outlined. Judging from what has been said in the public press about the enforcement of this Act, there has been apparently, on the part of the government, too much dread of unpleasant results, attributable possibly to supposed political necessities, and partly to the possibility of a rebellious refusal on the part of a certain section of the Dominion to obey the law when put in force. We do not believe that there would be any such result. A government that does what is right need not fear, for the people who are now roused to a sense of the importance of the measure will not stand any holding back by those who ought gladly to respond to the Empire's call. The somewhat traitorous vaporings of a few self appointed leaders should not be taken seriously. The country, moreover, is in no mood to stand anything in the nature of a treasonable act, and if there are those inclined that way the sooner they are known and promptly dealt with the better.