

CONSCRIPTION AND THE PLEBISCITE

I have stressed the seriousness of the world situation. I have pointed out the danger to our national existence. I have said that, because of the seriousness of the situation, because of the danger to Canada, the government should be released from the restriction on its powers. There still seems to be some doubt as to what the situation will be if the government is released. Many still believe that by voting "Yes", they will be voting for conscription. The truth is they will be doing nothing of the kind. They will merely be voting to give the government the same power <sup>should it deem that it is necessary</sup> to recommend to Parliament the adoption of conscription for service overseas that the government now has to recommend to Parliament the adoption of any other measure for the prosecution of the war. The government will not be relieved of the responsibility for exercising its own judgment as to whether conscription is or is not necessary. Parliament will still be free to accept or to reject the recommendations of the government. [ As the situation stands today, the government is bound by a pledge not to recommend conscription. Most of the members of Parliament are bound by similar pledges not to adopt conscription. There can be no real freedom of discussion of the issue of conscription on its merits as a war measure. Those who advocate conscription today