

that 15,000 persons or thereabouts had expressed a desire to render voluntary services to Canada. What is being done with this great potential factor which would be of real service to the country? It is indexed into 150 major classifications, into some 300 trades, but it seems to be pigeon-holed. There are 550 classes of people who have been indexed, comprising 15,000 of the finest people in Canada, technicians of all kinds, citizens who are well trained in certain lines, and only the odd score of them have been accepted at a dollar a year. This new department should immediately take hold of this nucleus and from it expand Canada's national effort so as to give our people a chance to be of real service. I am of the opinion that the organization of such voluntary service could be entirely self-sustaining.

We have letters coming from all sources asking us to take advantage of the services that are being offered. I read in the *Ottawa Journal*, under date of June 20, that 700 school teachers had volunteered their services to register men under Canada's proposed mobilization scheme. The chairman of the board of education in Hamilton addressed himself to the board of munitions announcing that they were ready to give their services in any capacity. They do not want to take holidays. I have a letter from a school-teacher who is anxious to work for her country free of charge during her summer holidays. In Britain something is being done in this regard. The entire population, it is suggested in a resolution submitted by thirty or forty British members of parliament to the Prime Minister, should be divided into armed forces and others, the latter being subdivided into producing groups to be kept at regular jobs, and non-producers subject to immediate call to serve in any capacity.

I had the privilege of presenting to this house—and even though I was out of order I managed to get it embalmed on the record of the house—a petition from eleven thousand people who were anxious to do something on behalf of Canada. Since then I have received a copy of a letter addressed to the Hon. Mr. Power, Minister of National Defence, under date of June 12, which reads as follows:

At a meeting of the above association (Toronto auxiliary defence unit No. 1) comprising twenty-eight organizations in the east end of Toronto, it was decided to write you offering our help in any way you might suggest.

The purpose of the association is to stimulate our war effort, and to cooperate with the proper authorities in home defence. Our city is located on lake Ontario and is vulnerable from any effort to cause trouble which might be directed from New York state. Recently at a mass meeting eleven thousand citizens signed a petition that was sent to Ottawa.

If the government are planning any national registration we would be glad to cooperate and to undertake the registration in ward eight.

Included in our association are the members of two posts of the Canadian Legion, and we would ask permission to organize and drill a home defence unit, also that we might be permitted to raise funds through theatre parties etcetera to equip this unit.

Assuring you of our support, and hoping for your cooperation, we are,

Yours truly,

Toronto Auxiliary Defence
Unit No. 1.

On June 13, I received a letter from the Canadian Progress club in Toronto, with three sheets of individual signatures, some seventy-five in number. This came to me out of the blue; I knew nothing of it. It reads:

At a meeting of the Canadian Progress club, Toronto down-town, held to-day, the members unanimously decided to send a joint letter to the Minister of Defence and the members for Toronto and the Yorks, urging that in view of the present emergency everything possible be done forthwith to further Canada's war effort, so that it may be completely worthy of the country's capacity and of the spirit of its citizens.

And this is the important part:

We pledge ourselves individually and as members of the Canadian Progress club, Toronto down-town, to support to the limit of our abilities every call and demand that may be made upon us. We earnestly hope that some definite task may be given to our club, and to each and every one of the undersigned members. As a Canadian service club we stand ready to serve our country to the limit.

That is signed by the president, S. Hume Crawford.

These are substantial citizens, and I will see to it that their request and their signatures get into the hands of the responsible ministers.

Then from the west end of Toronto I got a letter from another Canadian Progress club, along much the same lines. They say:

We have taken the privilege of petitioning the hon. Minister of National Defence and for your information we enclose a copy of our communication to the minister.

They also say:

We pledge ourselves individually and as members of the Canadian Progress club, Toronto West, to support to the limit of our abilities every call and demand that may be made upon us.

I have another suggestion which emanated from a discussion that took place in Toronto over the week-end. We have 245 members of parliament. We draw an indemnity for twelve months' work. We work about twelve weeks, and sometimes think we are underpaid. Parliament will soon be prorogued. We have just come through a dominion election. We know our constituencies. Why can we not