

as best it can, whether a man's service is more important to the nation in the occupation in which he is engaged than if he should be sent to the front for the performance of military service there. We have every desire to meet any reasonable suggestion from the members of the committee, but we really cannot reach the conclusion that any suggestion made so far would make the Bill fairer or more effective than it is in its present form.

Mr. GRAHAM: Does that apply to all the suggestions made on every clause?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: No, I was speaking of the suggestions made with respect to the matter now under discussion.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I judge from the remarks of my hon. friend from Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) that his impression of the provisions of the New Zealand National Service Bill somewhat differs from the view of the Solicitor General. The idea of the member for Edmonton as to the New Zealand Bill is rather the popular impression of it. I had always understood that that legislation provided for the division of New Zealand into zones, and that there was allocated to each zone a certain number of men who were to be produced periodically as required, and that if the number required was not forthcoming voluntarily the conscription law automatically applied and brought forth the deficiency in the quota in any one zone. I am not particularly interested in the matter, but obviously the New Zealand system will be referred to in the House and out of it, and it is as well that a precise statement in reference to that Act should be placed before the House. Therefore I hope that the Solicitor General will take advantage of the recess to inform himself carefully as to the New Zealand Act and give the House the advantage of the information.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I still think that my hon. friend's impression of the New Zealand Military Service Act is wrong. The Act is now in the possession of my hon. friend from St. John (Mr. Pugsley). I read it a month or two ago. I think that what my hon. friend has reference to is that before the Compulsory Service Act came into force, they had certain Acts relating to voluntary enlistment under which divisions were made—as it were, the last dying gasps of the voluntary system. The Compulsory Service Act proceeds upon the principle that our Act proceeds upon, that is to get the men who ought to go wherever those men are, and it does not di-

vide the country into districts. I will be very much surprised if my recollection is wrong.

Mr. PUGSLEY: If my hon. friend brings down that Act he might also bring down the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces Act, 1915.

Mr. OLIVER: If the minister has available a copy of the British and the American Acts they might be laid on the Table for our information.

Mr. MEIGHEN: It is very difficult to get copies of the English Act although it is not so difficult to get the American Act; we will see that a copy of each is laid on the Table.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Apparently my hon. friend the Solicitor General is in error. I find that by section 32, subsection 2 of the New Zealand Act it is provided that the Minister of Defence may divide New Zealand into such areas commonly called recruiting districts, as he thinks fit. Sir Joseph Ward was very clear in his expression to me. He said that there were 22 areas in New Zealand and that a certain quota had been allotted to each area. Before this section is disposed of, I would like to suggest to the Solicitor General that provision be made that all hearings of applications for exemption before the local tribunals, appeals to the appeal tribunals and possibly hearings before the central appeal judge, should be open to the public. I think that is absolutely essential in order to give the public confidence in the decision of these tribunals. This Bill provides that a man may not make application on his own behalf but that application may be made by others. Under this measure the manager of a factory employing 5,000 men could make application for and on behalf of that large number of persons and the local tribunal might act upon that without the public having the slightest knowledge of what was going on. It is essential to the satisfactory administration of this law, that in reference to all applications the public should have an opportunity of being fully informed. They can only get that knowledge if the tribunals are made public. I would hope that the Solicitor General would move an amendment to the Bill which would provide that all hearings shall be open to the public both for the taking of evidence and the presentation of argument. I think that is very desirable. I had thought of moving an amendment myself, but I would