

colours. I pray to God that it is not too late. I am afraid that it may be; for how can these men be trained in time for the defence of their shores, men who have never had previous training?

Now I come to my proposal. Why should not this dominion send a division of trained men to Australia? It would be more than a gesture of good will. It would be a demonstration of support and help and solidarity which would grip the imagination of the whole world, and especially of our own people, who have been thrilled by the exploits of the gallant Australians in Libya, in Greece, in Malaya and in every theatre of war. If we have not a division of trained men in Canada—and apparently we have not, I do not know; the minister can answer that—then send one of our trained divisions now in England, and replace it with men from Canada. Those men over there would welcome the opportunity for active service. I earnestly commend this proposal to my right hon. friend and his cabinet.

If we are to defeat the common enemy we must seek him out and defeat him in every theatre of war and wherever he may be found. That is one of the first principles of military strategy, the soundness of which has never been questioned. On no other hypothesis shall we win this war. To me that is fundamental. And if we are to seek out and defeat the enemy; if we are, in the words of the Minister of National Defence, to “stop at nothing which can be effectively done to ensure that the forces of evil shall be stamped out”; in a word, if we are to wage total war, how can we do so when we continue to impose a strangling restriction on our ability to mobilize our man-power for active service in any theatre of war?

That is the problem to which I implore the close attention of hon. gentlemen. Up to date the answer is the voluntary system, and it alone is relied upon. I do not intend to decry out of hand the voluntary system. The loyalty and patriotism of our young men was beyond question, although we were told in September, 1940, that some of them had to be taught their national obligations. Up to a certain point of time the voluntary system produced results. But because of the extended character of the struggle; because of its gigantic nature; because of all the factors which have developed in the course of more than two years of war; because man-power is so vital to any total war effort, I am quite sure that the time has now arrived when the voluntary system is no longer adequate to the necessities of the occasion.

By a reference to recruiting statistics I am quite certain that I can prove this premise.

[Mr. R. B. Hanson.]

Further, the figures on recruiting prove beyond a shadow of doubt that some communities are doing far more than others, that there is no equality of sacrifice as between the component parts of the nation. That the voluntary system has failed may be proved not only by statistics but also by the evidence of credible witnesses, those charged with the responsibility of making the system work.

The first witness I call is the Minister of National Defence himself. Speaking in this house on November 5 last as appears at page 4115 of *Hansard*, he admitted that the army was deficient by 13,000 in the number of recruits sought for the preceding four-months period. That surely is some evidence; to me it is very convincing evidence. Is it not striking and convincing evidence that in the mind of the minister at least the system is not yielding the results desired?

I pause here to say that, so far as my information goes, the defects in the voluntary system are not, up to date, reflected in the enlistments for the air and naval services. I am referring only to the active army. Our men, especially our younger men, are air-minded.

To cover the situation, the department has set up special recruiting committees. One such was established in New Brunswick—a province which, in my view, has done wonderfully well in voluntary recruiting—due, in part at least, to economic conditions; we have no war industry there. I now warn the government and the minister that the consensus among those most active in promoting voluntary enlistment in that area is that the limit has been reached. I offer that in the utmost good faith, believing it to be true. At a recruiting meeting held in my own city within the last few days, addressed by the premier of the province and by the president of the university, there was hardly a man of military age present, and that fact called for some pointed remarks from at least one of the speakers, himself a veteran of the last war.

In the city of Montreal, as long ago as August 27, W. B. Scott, K.C., co-chairman of the special recruiting committee of that city, stated:

It is time for the public to know and realize that we are not getting the recruits we need for the active army.

On October 16, Brigadier Georges Vanier, the D.O.C. for military district No. 5, Quebec City, who is charged with responsibility for making the voluntary system in his district produce results, is reported to have stated:

We are not getting enough men; we must have more.