

stand that only a moderate proportion of enlisted troops can be brought within that category and class. I should further emphasize this consideration; that in the enlistments which have taken place during the past year, and which I shall recount in a moment, a very considerable number of men have taken service in Railway Construction and Forestry battalions. These battalions serve a most useful and important purpose, but the number of men available for combatant service in Category "A" is necessarily cut down by enlistment in Railway Construction and Forestry units. The total enlistment during the year ending May 31, 1917, was 85,306. Of course, only a portion of these men were fit for Category "A," and as I have already pointed out, a considerable number enlisted for Railway Construction and Forestry service. During the same year our casualties amounted to 75,492. Our total casualties since the war began amount to 99,639. During April and May we enlisted 11,190 men and during these same two months our casualties were 23,939. During the next seven months we need re-inforcements to the number of at least 70,000 in order to keep four divisions in the field, and to keep five divisions in the field we need 84,000 men, in both cases principally infantry. Continued offensive operations, such as those of April and May might increase this number, and if the offensive continues it is not too much to say that we must expect this.

What is the conclusion I have drawn from all this? It is, as I have said before, that reinforcements must be obtained or the divisions must dwindle; there is no alternative. The reinforcements now available will last for only a few months, the precise number of which for military reasons, I am not at liberty to state. We are all proud that Canada has played a splendid and notable part in this war. The achievements of her troops have placed her in the very forefront of the nations, and the question before the House and the country to-day is this: Is Canada content to relax her efforts in the most critical period of a war which concerns her heritage, her status, and her liberty? I am confident that the answer of the House and the country will be the same, namely, that Canada cannot and must not relax her effort.

#### CANADA'S INVIOULATE PLEDGE.

It seems to me there is something more than this to be taken into account. Is there not, as I have already said in this House, an appeal from the men at the front? They have answered the call, they have given glorious service, they have put aside all material considerations; duty alone has been their ideal. Unconscious of every thing other than the supreme task before them, I know from my personal experience that they cannot realize the thought that their country which so summoned them to her service will be content to desert and humiliate them. I bring from that splendid manhood of Canada at the front an earnest and thrilling message that we shall stand beside them in the stress and welter of this struggle, and bring them such support that the effort and sacrifice which have been consecrated to this supreme task shall not be in vain. When Canada called them to the colours her honour was pledged to this, and I shall do