

see any other way in which it could be done that would be considered fair.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Would the hon. member make any distinction as to districts of provinces, or would he take each province as a unit?

Mr. OLIVER: I certainly would not. I would treat Canada as a country.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I will figure how that would work out.

Mr. OLIVER: I am not saying that under circumstances as they are in Canada, on the mandate of a self-elected Parliament, I would undertake for one moment to enforce a compulsory service Bill. Do not let my hon. friend imagine that for a moment. While I believe in compulsory military service equally distributed over the whole country, I believe in it only if it has the support of the majority of the whole people of Canada. I would not propose to support it in defiance of or without having the support of the majority of the people. What I have laid before my hon. friend now in answer to his insistent inquiry is the only kind of a compulsory service that I could feel myself warranted in supporting. If I could not support that I could not support any.

Mr. BRADBURY: Has any other country a system like that?

Mr. OLIVER: I think every other country except Canada. The United States—

Mr. BRADBURY: A ballot system?

Mr. OLIVER: Surely. In regard to the ballot, if I was bringing a Bill for compulsory military service before this House, I would select by authority of Parliament those who would be exempt from the operations of that Bill, and if we had more men than we wanted, I would select by ballot those who should go. I would do what I have asked my hon. friend to do and what he refuses, that is to lay down the principles of exemption.

Mr. MEIGHEN: But we do.

Mr. OLIVER: There is no use our disputing about that. My view is that he absolutely does not. He brings forward a section here under which, and I have challenged the House to disprove my statement—every citizen of Canada may be exempted. I say that I would not bring such a Bill before this House.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What principles of exemption would you propose to substitute for these principles?

Mr. OLIVER: It is not a question of principles but of details. We are asking the minister for details and he will not give them.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What would be his details?

Mr. OLIVER: It is not possible to go into all the details. My hon. friend has incubated this Bill for a number of weeks; he has had the benefit of all the lore that has been accumulated on the subject of compulsory military service Bills in all countries, and he has not been able—

Mr. MEIGHEN: Give us one detail.

Mr. OLIVER: —or is not willing to come before this House with any details whatever that would guarantee fair play under the administration of that clause.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Would the hon. gentleman explain how his ballot system would work?

Mr. OLIVER: I want to be a little explicit as to why I feel as deeply interested in this matter as I do. I have studied this population chart that has been distributed, and I have taken the figures given by the hon. member for North Grey (Mr. Middlebro) in regard to enlistments in Canada. I find that, when we consider the numbers of men who have gone from different sections of the country, there is a condition existing that was not taken into consideration in the figures which he gave, but is taken into consideration in the chart placed before this House. In the western provinces there is a large population of citizens of alien origin, some of them of alien enemy origin—many thousands of them. It is proposed by certain gentlemen on the Government side in this House that these people shall be disfranchised, I presume because they are not in all respects desirable citizens. It is obvious that you cannot expect from that section of the population the same enthusiasm in the matter of voluntary enlistment that we have from people of British or Canadian birth. As a matter of fact, we have not had that response from those people that we have had from people of Canadian or British birth, so that if we take the figures as contained in this chart and take that part of the population from which, as a matter of fact, we did draw the large proportion of our soldiers under voluntary enlistment, we find that the proportion of men who have gone from those western provinces, and particularly from the province of Alberta, under