

The Herald

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AT 81 QUEEN STREET CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND. JAMES MCISAAC EDITOR & PROPRIETOR

The Need of Men

Sir Robert Borden has given a complete answer to the question "Why is Conscription Necessary?"

In this war the chief fighting arm of the service is still the infantry, although there is no disposition to underrate the splendid work done by the artillery, which has repeatedly demonstrated its value. But it is the infantry battalions which carry the brunt of the fighting, and in which the heaviest casualties occur. And these casualties have been heavy much heavier than was anticipated, so heavy in fact that enlistments in Canada have proven utterly inadequate to meet them.

There has been a big deficit for the past fourteen months, although since April 1st it has become particularly apparent. The following figures, taken from an official source, will show just how serious that deficit is, and how great the need is for all the men that can be sent to the front in the shortest possible time:

Table with 2 columns: Date (May 1916 to May 1917) and Casualties (67,036 to 42,528)

It is understood that sixty-five per cent of the wounded men recover and are fit for further service. That means that we must allow for the permanent withdrawal of 16,098 infantrymen, in addition to the 21,040 killed and missing—a total loss in fourteen months of 37,138 men. Against this we had enlistments of 42,523, mostly before January 1st, 1917. But we must remember that of the 29,798 men slightly wounded many will have to spend months in hospital before rejoining their units. For that reason the enlistments of the year ending in May last were insufficient to keep the divisions in the field up to the strength. If we consider the state of affairs which has arisen during the past three months the shortcoming is appalling. In this period we have enlisted barely 3,000 men and lost 7,503 killed and missing, with probably 7,477 wounded, who will never rejoin, a total of 14,980.

Canada has four infantry divisions in the field in France, and they have been kept up to the strength by drafts from battalions held in reserve in England. But the supply of drafts is commencing to fail. When it does fail entirely how will the Canadian divisions be maintained, when for the month of April we had more than 21,000 casualties and a bare 3,000 of new recruits. In other words, for every man who entered the army in that time seven men were rendered unfit for service for some period.

When the voluntary supply fails, as it has failed, there is no recourse but compulsion. Consequently the Canadian Parliament has done wisely in supporting the conscription bill, but that measure is not yet law and the casualties continue unabated. The need for men is great, and young Canadians who hitherto have been deaf to the call of duty still have an opportunity of enlisting as volunteers and going forward without compulsion. It is safe to say that they will be called upon anyway in the autumn, or as soon as the necessary preliminaries have been complied with. Those who oppose compulsion hold that the very word "conscript" is distasteful to any democracy. Well, why wait to become a conscript? Why not be a volunteer?

The Conscription Bill

The announcement by Premier Borden that the conscription bill will be enforced as soon as the Governor-General has given his assent to it, instead of by proclamation as originally intended, effectively answers the criticisms of those who professed to believe that there would be much delay between the passing of the measure and its enforcement. The bill is now before the House of Commons in committee and is making such good progress that it is expected it will pass the House and go to the Senate in a very few days.

During the committee stage, and especially within the last two or three days, much of the bitterness has been taken from the opposition to the measure, and although the Laurier faction has not abandoned the effort to hamper and delay the proposals to reinforce the boys at the front, they have met with very little success.

The bill has been skillfully drawn and the Opposition has been unable to find flaws in it on which to base their criticisms. This is a distinct tribute to the ability of the Solicitor-General, Hon. Arthur Meighen, who, while accepting such suggestions as were given with good intent, has been able to contend successfully in favor of the bill as it stood.

There is a case in point in the clause providing a penalty for desertion. Under British military law this offence entailed a sentence of death, but that period has been passed in Canada, and it is now believed that a maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment is sufficient punishment.

Hon. Mr. Meighen in explaining this clause of the bill said the object was to make soldiers rather than jail birds, and the words were well chosen. Three years' imprisonment is a sufficiently severe sentence to make an impression where the offender is impressionable at all, and is also adequate to serve as a warning to others. Happily there have been but few desertions from the Canadian forces, and with the United States border now closed against the man who wishes to evade service there will be still fewer in future.

Other clauses in the bill which have come under the criticism of the Opposition have also been successfully defended, and the outlook now is that the measure will go to the Senate, practically in its original form. The only important change is that it will be enforced as soon as assented to instead of awaiting a special proclamation by the chief representative of the crown in Canada.

Ship Production

Statements published in American newspapers illustrate how thoroughly that nation is engaging in the business of shipbuilding on an enormous scale. The first government appropriation for shipbuilding was \$750,000,000, and it is stated that this has all been used either in contracts for the building of ships or in the purchase of shipping now on the stocks or at sea. It is the purpose to ask for \$500,000,000 more to complete the original programme.

One paper publishes an interesting interview with Chairman Denman of the U. S. Shipping Board, in which that gentleman expresses the opinion that if money is supplied and all the resources of the country employed in the production of ships, wooden or steel, according to the capacity of the plants building them, America in eighteen months will have turned out 5,000,000 tons of weight of shipping, in addition to vessels still on the stocks. This, he thinks, will go a long way in the direction of ending the U-boat menace.

But it is not alone in the United States that ship production

titles of shipping are being produced. Great Britain, with her many mighty yards, is undoubtedly launching a much greater number of commercial vessels than before the war, when it was estimated that her annual production was in the vicinity of 2,000,000 tons. It is not beyond belief that this year's output of commercial vessels from British yards will reach 6,000,000 tons, or three times what it was before the war. The British and allied governments are purchasing ships where ever they can be obtained. Norwegian shipbuilders are said to be growing fabulously wealthy. Japan has turned her genius to the construction of vessels and has found a ready market for all she can produce. Canada is adding her quota although the industry in this country is but in its infancy. South American yards are springing into existence, and a recent issue of the New York Herald chronicles the awarding of large contracts to a newly established yard in Buenos Ayres. The same paper predicts that the total ship construction of the world, exclusive of Germany and her allies, will reach 15,000,000 tons in the next eighteen months. Thus, the Herald contends, the rate of destruction by submarines must be increased very materially if the German boast of ruling the ocean is to be realized. At present the rate at which submarines are destroying commerce carrying vessels is not in excess of 500,000 tons per month, or 9,000,000 tons in the year and one-half period about three-fifths of the new tonnage which will be completed in that time. And it is expected that in eighteen months' time, at the outside limit, the war will be over and the submarine menace forever removed.

Dominion Parliament

Ottawa, July 9—(Canadian Press)—When the House resumed consideration of the military service bill today, Sir Wilfrid Laurier asked for information as to the alternative provisions for prosecuting deserters—by summary conviction or by court martial. Hon. Mr. Meighen explained that the alternative would cover the difference in degree of "desertion" as between the man who never responded and the man who never deserted after being enrolled. Mr. Sinclair wanted to know how men convicted would be kept while under sentence, and was told that the general law would apply. The discussion veered to the penalty clauses. H. B. Murphy of Perth thought that the three year maximum for desertion was not enough. He wanted it ten years instead of three, with a five year term for the man who failed to report. Sir Wilfrid Laurier pointed out that the army act which had been made part of the bill provided the death penalty for desertion. He thought that, while the three year term was specified in the bill itself, there might be some doubt raised on the point. Hon. Mr. Meighen added his assurance that the three year maximum and not the army act penalty would govern. Frank Glass of Middlesex and Mr. Murphy joined in a demand that the penalty for desertion be fixed by the act, and not left to individual magistrates. Mr. Boyce (Algoma) was inclined to agree that the provision for punishment did not go far enough. Hon. Mr. Meighen added the assured purpose of the act was to make soldiers not jail birds. Any man who deserted would then still be under the army act, and become a soldier after being an outlaw.

Ottawa, July 10—When the House met several more petitions against conscription were presented by Messrs. Proulx and L. A. Lapointe, after which the House returned to committee of the whole on the military service bill, taking up clause eleven, which deals with exemptions. The opening discussion took place on the first sub-section of the exemption clause. The sub-section provides for exemption where "it is expedient in the national interest that the man should, instead of being employed in military service, be



The Spring Suit Question is Answered in The Styles We Show

If there has been a question in your mind as to the style suit you would like to wear for Spring, dispel any wearisome thought regarding it. Come to our suit section with an open mind—come with the sole thought in view of securing a fashionable, well fitting garment and at a price that you want to pay. If you do this you need have no uneasiness as to the satisfaction and pleasure you are going to get out of your new Spring suit. We say again, the suit question is answered completely and fully in our Spring showing and from every viewpoint. Spring suits of woolen materials from \$22.75 to \$45.00. Spring suits of silk fabrics \$22.00 to \$32.00.

Very nice suit, made of good quality serge, made with convertible sailor collar, belted effect, sateen lined, Black, Niger Brown and Navy, splendid value, \$12.75. Better quality serge suit, made with sailor collar, half belted effects, trimmed black braid and buttons, sateen lined, Black, Navy and Niger Brown, Price \$15.00. Misses shepard check suit, box style, with serge collar, all around belt of white serge, sizes 14 and 16, price \$15.00. Splendid suit, made of Gaverdine, large convertible collar, box back, with all around belt, patch pockets, mercer lined, Navy and green, only \$19.00. Very fine quality all wool serge suit, made in box pleated back, half belt, large fancy collar, trimmed braid and buttons, Brown, Navy and Black silk lined, plain flare skirt, shades, Black, Navy and Niger Brown, \$25.00. Very smart New York design, developed in all wool, poplin, in mustard shade, lined with many stripes silk, belted effect, gathered back, embroidered flannel collar, trimming of silk stitching and fancy pearl buttons, \$47.50.

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A woman is more careful about the hat she buys than any part of her attire. She wants a hat that is not only smart and conforms with the fashions of the season, but one also that is becoming and improves her looks. And since you buy a hat to give you most pleasure and satisfaction in wearing why not choose one that will make your friends ask you where you got it and say, "My, what a pretty hat you have on."

A becoming, pretty hat brings more pleasure in wearing than the question of service, for when you get a hat that you like, you take more care of it and wear it longer hereby increasing its service to you. We have aimed to provide just such hats. Their costs are no more than you would pay for a hat of ordinary type.

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Mail Contract

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From the 1st October next.

Printed address containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of E. W. Bellis, and at the Office of the Post Office Inspector.

JOHN F. WHEAR

Post Office Inspector.

Charlottetown, June 23, 1917.

June 27, 1917-31

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