

portant that we as Canadians should see to it in every possible way that there is no repetition in future of the divisions which separated us in the year 1917.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (Richmond-West Cape Breton): What were the divisions?

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN: Does my honourable friend require an answer? He can get that from somebody else.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (Richmond-West Cape Breton): Certainly we want an answer.

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN: I am not going back to that. What I want to say is that I fully agree with the honourable colleague who sits behind me and who so eloquently seconded the Address (Hon. Mr. Gouin). I said to my honourable friend, and I say to everybody, that the one thing we have to do now is to see to it that we remain a united people, and that those unfortunate divisions which embittered political life in this country for many years shall not be repeated in the future.

Hon. B. F. SMITH: We have not very much unity at the present time.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (Richmond-West Cape Breton): That does not answer the question about divisions. I asked about the divisions that the honourable gentleman referred to, because I wanted to know what they were and what caused them. We were fighting a common enemy in 1917.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: The honourable gentleman can make a speech later.

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN: Now I want to discuss the question of compulsory overseas service—

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (Richmond-West Cape Breton): Certainly. That is the question before us.

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN: I want to discuss the question of compulsory overseas service in as calm and dispassionate a way as I can, in relation to our total war effort and to the available man-power that we have at our disposal. It seems to me that a certain amount of hysteria has crept into the discussions, not those in this House, but some of the discussions which we listen to outside of this House, and into some of the newspaper articles which we read. That, of course, is only natural. The war has been going on for more than two years. Men's minds are worried, their nerves begin to get frayed, and it is not surprising that some form of hysteria should appear in public discussions. It were very much better that this hysteria should not appear, but unfortunately it does.

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN.

I often think that the people who talk to us about compulsory military service in this war are making a rather common mistake of the military mind. They are thinking of this war in terms of the last war, and that is a very dangerous thing to do. If you want an example of the danger of trying to fight this war in terms of the last war, just remind yourselves of what happened to unhappy France, whose generals did try to do just that.

What was the fundamental characteristic of the last war? It was that vast numbers of men were required for the infantry, armed with rifles, to man a long system of permanent trenches. This war, in that respect, is entirely different. The demands are different, the requirements are different; the requirements of man-power, in particular, are different. I think the difference can be epitomized, perhaps, in that one word mechanization. This time there are far smaller numbers of men at the front, and enormously larger numbers of machines. We have been told that modern warfare requires from ten to fifteen men behind the line, working in factories, for every fully armed and fully equipped soldier at the front.

If you compare Canada's part in the last war with Canada's part in this war you will see wherein the difference lies. In the last war our principal contribution was virtually confined to the raising of a large army. Of course, we did produce a great deal of food and a very large number of shells. But the army and men for the army were the principal demand, and it was a demand which was filled. What is the demand upon Canada's man-power in the present war? It is very much more diversified and very much more serious.

Take the things we are called upon to do as our contribution to the common cause. We have to produce vast quantities of food. Our role in that respect is very much more important than it was in the last war, because then Great Britain had access to the markets of Denmark and a large part of continental Europe, which are now closed to her. In the second place, we are called upon in a way never before imagined to act as a tremendous arsenal, not only for Britain, but for all the democracies who are fighting on the common front. Figures have been given me to the effect that the number of Canadians actually engaged in our munitions industries at the present time is somewhere between 600,000 and 750,000. In the third place, we have been called upon to provide and man perhaps the largest military air training scheme that the world has ever seen. In the fourth place, we have been called upon to build, to equip and to man a navy on both our Atlantic and our