

"K" Speeches.

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Statement on the Plebiscite

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The results of the plebiscite on April the 27th are now all but complete. Although final official returns are not yet available, the most reliable figures indicate that on the question asked there were over 2,926,856 persons who voted in the affirmative, and over 1,618,730 persons who voted in the negative; in other words 64% of the voters answered in the affirmative and 36% in the negative.

The total number of votes cast on the plebiscite is an impressive demonstration of the importance which the electors of Canada attach to giving to the Government a free hand at a time of war.

The question on which the people of Canada were asked to express an opinion was:

"Are you in favour of releasing the Government from any obligation arising out of any past commitments restricting the methods of raising men for military service?"

By their vote, the people have decisively expressed the view that the Government should be released from any such obligation. In other words, there no longer remains any issue which the Government or Members of Parliament, because of past promises or pledges are restricted from considering, discussing and deciding on its merits, in the light of what is best for Canada and for Canada's war effort.