

all Provinces, just at the moment, I feel sure, Sir, it is one that will speedily grow, as I have found in many instances, as soon as the conditions we personally know of are explained to thinking people, the most serious objections they ever had against some compulsion system immediately disappear.

This all leads us to believe that if Canada does intend to enlist another 200,000 men, and, that while your Militia Department may easily do so without the aid of any Civilian Recruiting Association, that even then we must strenuously object to present methods being continued in the effect on the interests we represent. It is our intention to organize this body into a National Association, and to continue to help in this most important work, or to offer to do so at least, provided more business methods are employed, and to further offer to assist in formulating such methods.

There is just one other thought occurs to me further, in the event of criticism on such action as is contained in the memorial presented. It is this—That Legislation has already been passed to the effect that certain profits in certain businesses have been conscripted, and I for one, hold up both hands for it, but Sir, were those businesses ever asked or consulted on the question?—these profits are the assets in most cases of older men.

The assets of the younger man is his freedom. If you take one, surely there is room for argument, that you should take the other under certain conditions.

We stand ready to help, Sir, but we are anxious to see that something is done, and speedily, to improve the situation, and hope you and your colleagues will give the request an early answer.

HON. CHIEF JUSTICE MATHERS, of Winnipeg:

Sir Robert Borden. This, Sir, is the first occasion on which I have ever appeared as a member of a delegation to wait upon any minister of the Crown, Dominion or Provincial, and, Sir, I would not be here to-day if it were not for a conviction born of my experience as president of the Winnipeg Recruiting League, that the present system of recruiting is altogether wrong, and that if we mean to send forward the number of men called for without jeopardizing the vital industries of Canada, some other method must be adopted.

We come here, Sir, to-day, not as supplicants for any favour for ourselves. We come without distinction of, and some of us without allegiance to, any political party. We come representing recruiting leagues from Nova Scotia in the East to Saskatchewan in the West, as truly and as faithfully as we can, to represent to you the conditions as we, in the prosecution of our work as recruiting leagues, have found them to exist, and to point out what we consider to be the remedy. I think we can say that with one voice, without a solitary dissident, we have all arrived at the conclusion that the remedy is enforced military service under