

as their services may be of the most value.

(c) A similar call to all employers to effect such industrial reorganization as is necessary to meet emergencies arising out of the war.

#### A Political, not National Committee.

Sir Robert Borden, who as we have shown had no policy of his own, notwithstanding the responsibility thrown upon him as Prime Minister of the country and notwithstanding also that he had arrogated to himself and his government the full right and authority to carry on all Canada's war operations without seeking advice or assistance of any kind from the Opposition, adopted that resolution of the Directors of National Service and invited Sir Wilfrid Laurier to nominate five members of a Parliamentary Committee of twelve, the other seven to be nominated by Sir Robert Borden himself.

We direct special attention here to the disparity in numbers. The term National Service surely involves common service of a National character, but Sir Robert Borden proposed at the very outset that the Parliamentary Committee be political in character, to be dominated by the Conservatives through weight of numbers. In other words he was playing the same game of politics that he and his colleagues and party have played since the beginning of the war.

Analyze the situation for a moment. An almost exclusively Conservative Board of Directors of National Service was appointed to solve the recruiting problem; that Board advised the appointment of a Parliamentary Committee to issue a call to the people; Borden approved the advice and decreed that the Parliamentary Committee would consist of five Liberals and seven Conservatives. The five Liberals would have no say as to the work of the Board of National Service, even though at least half the people of Canada are Liberals. All they were to be given was a minority right to co-operate with seven Conservatives in issuing a call to the people, the terms of which would be dictated by the Conservatives and the almost exclusive Conservative Board of Directors of National Service.

#### Calls, Innumerable Have Been Made.

A call to the people is a nice sounding phrase, but what would such a call avail unless it is backed up by vigorous, intelligent and aggressive effort well directed by men who know accurately all the conditions, and are acting solely in the National interest, and not in any sense as partisans. Calls innumerable have been made to the people since the beginning of the war. There is scarcely a member of Parliament on either side of politics that has not been heard, and heard repeatedly, on the platform, urging the able-bodied manhood of the country of military age, to fight for the cause. In this respect no one has done more than Sir Wilfrid Laurier. His eloquent voice has been heard not only in the Province of Ontario but in his own native Province of Quebec, and always he has preached the gospel of service. No one has been more passionate in his denunciation of the crimes of Germany, and none more zealous in urging his

own compatriots to rally to the standard and fight for the cause, not only of Canada but of civilization.

#### How the Recruiting Problem may be solved.

The problem of recruiting will not be solved by any handful of members of Parliament, telling the people that they should enlist and serve, and it is as little likely to be solved through the efforts of a body of Directors not thoroughly representative of the people. Much might be accomplished we believe if the Government were to call into counsel, leaders of thought and activity, irrespective of politics, in all walks of life, explain the situation fully to them, and ask them to go out and sow the good seed. As it is to-day the people are not fully informed, and do not accurately or authoritatively know the true situation and the actual necessities of the case. Nor have the people been informed as to the extent to which recruiting may safely go without jeopardizing the production of foodstuffs which are essential to the maintenance of ourselves and the Empire, and without interfering with the necessary manufacture of munitions. These are two factors of prime importance in carrying on the war. Canada has already done wonderfully well in the way of enlistment and sending men to the front, and we do not for a moment say she cannot or should not do more, but obviously the drain of our best men has been severe, and further drains can only be made by the most intelligent, united and well directed effort.

#### Real National Service.

National Service is an almost sacred phrase and in its best sense it surely means that every good citizen should do his bit according to his physical fitness, ability or means. On the contrary we are certain it should not mean, as we have daily seen exemplified by the Borden government, that the poor alone should offer themselves to the supreme sacrifice, while the rich and the well-to-do grow richer through war contracts and fat political appointments. If we are to have real National Service let Sir Robert Borden dismiss his Minister of Militia and house-clean the Department from cellar to garret, so that the men who enlist may have assurance that they will be properly treated and looked after. Let him also abolish root and branch the patronage evil which has obtained in appointments, promotions, favours and purchases. Let him in short start a fresh page with the intention to serve nationally and not politically, and he will do more to help recruiting than he has ever done.

#### Sir Wilfrid's Attitude.

In conclusion one word. Can you wonder in the face of the foregoing description as we believe of the true situation, that Sir Wilfrid Laurier answered Sir Robert Borden in the following pertinent paragraph:—

"I feel that under the circumstances, in acceding to your suggestion my assistance to the cause which I have endeavoured to serve from the first day of the war, would not be untrammelled and consequently as effective as if I con-