

Proceedings on Presentation of Memorial

A deputation of fifty-two gentlemen interested in recruiting waited upon the Premier at his office in the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, on Friday, 14th April, 1916, at 12 o'clock noon.

The deputation was introduced by Mr. Gordon Wilson, member for Wentworth.

Lieut.-Col. A. F. Hatch of Hamilton was the first speaker. Col. Hatch said: Right Hon. Sir. It is my privilege to present to you for your consideration a document known as the Hamilton Memorial concerning enlistment. It is as follows:

COPY MEMORIAL

"To the Right Hon. Sir Robert Laird Borden, P.C., G.C.M.G., K.C., L.L.D., Premier of the Dominion of Canada. The Memorial of the Hamilton Recruiting League Respectfully Sheweth:

"That the Dominion of Canada is engaged in a war involving the very existence of British institutions—a war that calls for the most rigid economy of men and means—a war that can be successfully concluded only by the fullest utilization of all our resources.

"That under the present voluntary system there is great waste of the Nation's resources.

"Therefore your Memorialists pray that a Commission be appointed for the purpose of:

"Taking a census of all men in the Dominion from eighteen years of age and upward, specifying those married and unmarried.

"Classifying the men according to their occupations or their fitness or preference for certain kinds of work.

"Classifying the industries with a view to the restriction or the ultimate elimination of such as are non-essential to the welfare of the country or are not economic factors.

"It being understood that the foregoing is urged with a view to the immediate application of some just and comprehensive system of draft, whereby the men necessary to complete the Canadian Expeditionary Forces may be readily secured.

"And your Memorialists will ever pray.

Dated this Eleventh Day of April, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixteen.

"Signed on behalf of the Hamilton Recruiting League.

"ARTHUR F. HATCH, President.

"A. W. KAYE, Secretary."

This Memorial Sir, has been signed by all the representatives who are here. They are earnest in what they have done