

Two Letters

proving that

Sir Wilfrid Laurier

would not encourage

even voluntary

recruiting

1917.

OFFICERS RECRUITING COM.

G. E. MAIN, CHAIRMAN      PHONE NO. 3408  
FRANK MAGEE, VICE-CHAIRMAN      1102  
L. R. GREENE, PUBLICITY DIRECTOR      2440  
W. S. BURRILL, TREASURER      1480  
L. W. PRATT, SECRETARY      3301



OFFICERS SERVICE LEAGUE

G. C. COPPLEY | JOINT      PHONE NO. 7  
R. L. SMITH | CHAIRMEN      4482  
L. S. MCKINSEY SEC. Y      1949

CANADIAN CLUB OF HAMILTON  
RECRUITING COMMITTEE  
WITH WHICH IS AFFILIATED  
THE CITIZENS' SERVICE LEAGUE

PHONE 8082

HEADQUARTERS 17 KING ST. WEST

HAMILTON, ONT.

February 20th, 1917.

Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier,  
Ottawa,

Dear Sir Wilfrid:

On behalf of a special recruiting committee organized by the Canadian Club of Hamilton I am appealing to you for a brief written endorsement of our present effort to arouse new interest and activity in recruiting in our city and county.

The enclosed pamphlets are first and second of a series being distributed to every house in Hamilton, and will give you an idea of the character of the appeal we are making.

We have practically completed the organization of a Citizens' Service League of five hundred men who are pledging themselves to work individually and collectively for recruits. Their efforts are being backed vigorously by general publicity in the newspapers, in street cars, on billboards, in the schools and through other effective advertising methods.

We realise that a brief appeal over your signature when given wide publicity in our local papers will be of the greatest value to us. It will emphasize the absolute need of more men for overseas service and the necessity for our loyal citizens supporting us in our present effort.

May we have the privilege of your interest, assistance and encouragement?

Very respectfully yours,

Canadian Club Recruiting Committee,

G. E. MAIN, Chairman.

To the preceding letter Sir Wilfrid replied as follows:



Ottawa, February 26th., 1917.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 20th inst.

I am sorry that I cannot send you at once an affirmative answer. I will look into the matter, but will keep it under advisement.

Believe me

Yours sincerely,

Mr. G.E.Main  
Canadian Club,  
Hamilton. Ont.

No other reply was sent by Sir Wilfrid.

In the face of these facts how can anyone have faith in the sincerity of the devotion to voluntary service which Sir Wilfrid now proclaims?

Sir Robert Borden and the Hon. N. W. Rowell were similarly written to by the same Hamilton Recruiting Committee and replied promptly by telegram.

Sir Robert Borden was in England at the time and his reply by cable was as follows:—

**CABLE.**

**J. B. Hanna,  
Secretary Canadian Club,  
Hamilton, Ont.**

**“The war's climax is rapidly approaching, and it may be reached at any moment. I strongly commend and support the efforts of the Canadian Club of Hamilton in its recruiting campaign. The most vigorous effort is vitally necessary, and I hope for a splendid result from your efforts.**

**BORDEN.”**

Hon. Mr. Rowell's reply was as follows:—

**Toronto, Ont., March 1, 1917.**

**G. Edmund Main,  
Hamilton, Ontario.**

**“The greatest inspiration we can give the men at the front during the Spring drive is the assurance that reinforcements will be provided. They are urgently needed. We must have reinforcements if we are to maintain our divisions in the battle line. I earnestly hope your effort may be successful.**

**N. W. ROWELL.”**

