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South Avenue to

GOVERNMENT IS AVERSE STILL TO CONSCRIPTION

Advertisements in United
States Emphasize Volun-
tariness of Service

1917

(Staff Correspondence of The Globe.)
Ottawa, April 29.—That it has never been the intention of the Dominion Government up to the present time to bring about conscription in Canada, despite statements encouraging the hope that this step would be taken, is made perfectly clear by a return tabled in Parliament at the request of Mr. E. M. Macdonald, relative to the importation into western Canada of farm laborers from the United States.

The statement includes a letter written for general circulation in the United States by Hon. W. J. Roche on January 8, 1916, in which he said: "I beg to advise you that all troops from Canada for the war have gone voluntarily; that, while the Government has the power to enforce conscription, such action has not been considered advisable or necessary, and, even were conscription introduced, it would apply to Canadian citizens only."

The inclusion of this letter in the recent return is taken as a pretty certain indication that the Government's policy is just the same to-day as it was in January, 1916, when Dr. Roche wrote that "Such action has not been considered advisable or necessary." The advertisements appearing in United States newspapers in connection with the recent importation of American labor emphasized the fact that there is no compulsory military service in Canada.

FIRST CLASS CALL OCT. 13

Proclamation Will Notify Men
to Either Report or Claim
Exemption

REASONS FOR THE DELAY

Board of Selection Has Not Finished
Work—Enormous Mass of

Globe Oct 4 - 1917
Printing.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Ottawa, Oct. 3.—The first class of recruits under the military service act will be called up on Saturday, October 13. A proclamation will be issued on that date notifying men in Class 1 that within a specified time they are either to report for military duty or to file a claim for exemption. Class 1 comprises:

"Those who have attained the age of twenty years and were born not earlier than the year 1883, and are unmarried, or are widowers but have no child."

With the proclamation calling up the men will also be published regulations by which Tribunals appointed to hear applications for exemption will be governed. There will be between three and four weeks' delay, after the issue of the proclamation, in which applications for exemption may be filed. This will bring the Tribunals into full operation, it is expected, early in November, and probably by the middle of the same month the first batch of men—there are many who will not claim exemption—will be with the colors. An appeal from the decision of a Local Tribunal will have to be filed within two or three days after the applicant is notified that his claim for exemption was disallowed.

Only "A" Men to be Called.

From the medical point of view, men who have submitted themselves for physical examination are divided into various categories. Only "A" men—those fit for general service overseas—will actually be called to the colors. All within Class 1 should, however, send in either a report for service or a claim for exemption. The certificate of the Medical Board is to be attached. Men in Class 1 placed in any medical category other than category "A" will then be granted exemption till men within their

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 3.)

category are called to the colors. When "B" and "C" are so called, any other ground they may have for claiming exemption will be considered.

Eight Grounds for Claim.

No special class, occupation or trade will be granted exemption as such, but exemption may be claimed on eight separate grounds:

- (1) Importance of continuing employment in habitual occupations.
- (2) Importance of continuing employment for which applicant for exemption is specially qualified.
- (3) Importance of continuing education or training.
- (4) Serious hardship owing to exceptional financial obligations.
- (5) Serious hardship owing to exceptional business obligations.
- (6) Serious hardship owing to exceptional domestic position.
- (7) Ill-health or infirmity.
- (8) Adherence to religious denomination of which the articles of faith forbid combatant service.

Causes of Delay.

It was at first hoped to have the proclamation issued by the end of September, but unforeseen delays prevented such a course. The Board of Selection was unable to make its appointments to Local Tribunals, and will not complete them till next week. The enormous mass of printing required has also been somewhat of a difficulty. Fifty different classes of forms are required in connection with the administration of the act, and millions of forms and circulars have been printed. When the Board of Selection finishes its work, however (the board meets again on October 9), everything is expected to be in readiness for the call.

Negotiations are under way, it is understood, between Ottawa and Washington with a view to bringing Americans of military age resident in Canada within the scope of the draft law. Canadians resident in the United States would similarly be affected under the American law.

Bereaved Families Considered.

Families which have lost several members in the war will receive special consideration when drafts are called under the military service act. A definite regulation on the point has not been laid down. But military representatives will be instructed not to oppose a claim of exemption made to a local tribunal on such grounds. No doubt is felt further that tribunals will recognize the validity of a bona fide claim of this nature.

Aliens Not Affected.

Men of alien birth and still retaining their foreign citizenship will not be required either to report for service or to claim exemption when the first call is issued. But every naturalized British subject, no matter where or how naturalized, must report or claim exemption—that is, if he comes within the class called out by proclamation.

Men of alien enemy origin, naturalized since 1902, are disfranchised under the war-time elections act, and under the same act are given exemption from military service. The exemption must, however, be claimed by filing in a claim in the ordinary way.

MR. MEWBURN DISCUSSES MILITIA AFFAIRS

He Wants to See Fighting
Units Preserved in
Canada.

PRAISED BANDS

The Minister Defends the
Officers Who Failed to
Go to the Front.

H. Jones April 30-1919
Ottawa, April 29.—When the House of Commons went into Committee of Supply on the estimates of the Department of Militia and Defence today, Hon. Mr. Mewburn, referring to the first item of \$50,000 allowances for the active militia, explained that these estimates had been prepared prior to the signing of the armistice. It would be necessary to bring down further amounts in the supplementary estimates, because certain expenditures had been charged to the war fund while the war was in progress.

In reply to Major C. G. Power the Minister of Militia said that he considered it unwise to attempt to formulate any policy as to the future of the Canadian militia until after the return of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. When the men were all home from the front his proposal was that a committee would be formed with the overseas men on it to visit the military districts. This committee would consult with the officers and people interested in the active militia, and endeavor to obtain all information useful in the reconstitution of the active militia.

General Mewburn said that there was a feeling, with which he agreed, that some of the fighting units should be perpetuated in the active militia. He did not know how far the country was prepared to go in maintaining the militia.

RECRUITING RECORD.

Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux expressed the opinion that the success of recruiting in Ontario during the war years was largely due to the splendid military organization in that province. He advocated the establishment of cadet corps in colleges and high schools. ~~This should be done without developing a militaristic spirit.~~

Dr. Edwards, of Frohntenac, said that during the war there were a number of militia officers walking around in uniform who never would go to the front and never wanted to go. He wanted to make sure that if any reorganization of the Canadian militia took place these men would not be given their rank.

General Mewburn did not agree with Dr. Edwards' remarks about officers in the active militia. He said that the great proportion of officers in militia units organized previous to the outbreak of the war had gone to the front. As far as city battalions were concerned, he could not recall the case of a single officer, physically fit, who could go to the front, and had not done it.

Major Power expressed the hope that officers of regimental units who had not gone to overseas would be replaced by overseas men.

General Mewburn said that on the reorganization these units were asking officers who had been overseas to take command of the regiments.

Major Power asked what would be the rank of a militia officer who had been promoted overseas.

QUESTION OF RANK.

General Mewburn replied that in the case, for instance, of a lieutenant in the militia who had risen to the rank of lieutenant-colonel, he along with all others would be placed on the C.E.F. reserve of officers, and he would go on that list with the rank with which he came back from the front. The Minister added in reply to Mr. Mowat that it would be a good thing if this country would go in for some system of military training. He expressed the opinion that the Swiss system was the best outside of conscription.

Mr. Mowat said he was delighted to observe the friendly attitude of members of the Opposition from Quebec towards the Minister of Militia, and the favor shown towards military training. It was natural, he said, that this should come from the Province of Quebec. Quebec first gave to Canada the idea of voluntary service, and had passed the first Militia Act.

The item was passed, and when the vote of \$75,000 for cadets was reached General Mewburn described as most creditable the part which the cadets of Canada had played in the war. Forty thousand of them had enlisted, 2,048 had been killed in the war, 11 had won the Victoria Cross, 857 had received other decorations, and 401 had received commissions.

In connection with the vote of \$25,000 for rifle associations, the Minister said that only \$5,000 had been spent last year, but applications were already coming in from associations which desired to reorganize. He said the Bisley matches would go on this year, and Canada was asked to send a team. Probably men who had been overseas would represent Canada.

U.S. HOUSES PASS ARMY DRAFT BILL

Mennonite Archives of Ontario

Plan for Selective Conscription
Finally Approved

INCREASE MEN'S PAY

Compromise Likely to be Effected in
Regard to the Provision for Regu-
lation of Liquor Traffic by the
President.

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(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Washington, April 29.—Both Houses of Congress late last night passed the army bill embodying the Administration's plan for selective draft. The vote in the Senate was 81 to 3; in the House it was 397 to 24. Differences between the two Houses will be adjusted in conference this week.

The final vote in the House preceded by a few minutes the final vote in the Senate. The vote followed a decisive defeat of the pro-volunteer forces in both Houses. The Kahn amendment, striking from the bill authorization for the calling out of volunteers, was adopted in the House by 313 to 109. A great demonstration was staged in the House as the Administration victory was announced. The Senate voted against the volunteer plan, 69 to 18.

Both Senate and House adopted amendments greatly increasing the pay of enlisted men during the war. The House provision would make their pay \$30 a month, and that approved by the Senate would fix it at \$29 a month. The present pay is only \$15.

Compromise on Prohibition?

Both Houses of Congress are expected to agree to-morrow to a conference on the bill. There will probably be a compromise on the age agreement.

The Senate conferees will find the managers of the House reluctant to accept the liquor amendment, which gives the President authority to regulate the sale of intoxicants in or near military stations and to prohibit the serving of liquors to officers and men in uniform. It is believed the House conferees will hold out against this amendment, holding that it has no place in the army bill and there is no exigency demanding prohibition legislation at this time.

A Sentimental Contest.

The contest in the Senate over the so-called Roosevelt amendment will be more or less one of sentiment. The House rejected without a record vote an amendment permitting the War Department to utilize a division commanded by Col. Roosevelt, but in opposition of the House was predicated on the theory that a conscription bill should contain no authorization for volunteers.

Conscription Laws. - 1

CONSCRIPTION BILL PASSED BY SENATE

Will Probably Reach House of
Commons Again Next
Week

READY FOR ROYAL ASSENT

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Ottawa, Aug. 8.—The military service bill now awaits only the Commons' endorsement of the Government amendment, inserted in the upper House, making approval of the Minister of Justice a necessary preliminary to any prosecution under the act, and the signature of the Governor-General, before it becomes the law of the land. The bill was given its third reading in the Senate to-night; eight amendments had been proposed during the day's discussion, and had been defeated. No vote was recorded on the final stage of the bill through the upper House. It was declared carried "on division."

The main discussion on the third reading stage was in connection with the divinity student exemption clause, first inserted in the bill in the Commons by Premier Borden and then withdrawn after the strenuous protests of the Orange Conservatives. One amendment moved in the upper House was to interpret the clergy exempted as being clergy as defined by each particular denomination. This was defeated by a vote of 34 to 24. Senator Beaubien moved the reinsertion of the divinity student clause, having re-

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4.)

gard practically to the exemption of the novitiates of the Roman Catholic clergy in Quebec. Senator Beaubien declared that to refuse exemption to recruits to the church for the sake of possibly enlisting about 250 young men more per year was neither wise nor just. Senator Power on the Liberal side opposed the amendment declaring that the fighting experience and discipline which these embryo priests and ministers would get would make them all the more efficient ministers of the gospel.

Six Other Amendments.

In addition to these amendments there were six others, one making allowance for men who had been engaged and married before July 6th; one exempting teachers; one raising the minimum age for conscription from twenty to twenty-one; one providing for two central appeal judges; one exempting all fathers who had six or more children; and one providing that the penalty clauses for influencing or speaking against the act shall not apply to candidate or their agents holding public meetings during the election campaign. All of these amendments were declared lost on division.

The Government objection to all of these amendments as voiced by Sir James Loughheed was, in essence, that the selecting tribunals would use common sense, and see that no injustice in individual cases occurred.

In Commons Next Week.

The bill as amended will probably reach the Commons again before the end of the week.

By next week, if the Government means business and intends to enforce the bill forthwith, it should receive the Royal assent. Then the

Globe - Oct 18 - 1917 ✓
"SERVICE," NOT "EXEMPTION."

It is Military Service the law calls for, not Military Exemption. It is law in Canada, and law for all Canadians. And obedience to that eternal law of service is required of every Canadian, with no exemptions, either for age, or for sex, or for personal occupation.

Service is the supreme obligation of the social order, everywhere and always. In any community and under all circumstances, the man who will not serve is a traitor to the society of which he is a member. If he spends the wealth of idleness he is a parasite. If he eats the bread earned by the sweat of another's brow, and in return makes no contribution to the necessities of the community—the necessities for worthy things or for lofty ideas or for holy passions—he is not only a parasite whose presence is a burden, but a transgressor whose existence is a crime.

There is no dodging that issue. The man or the woman who has a talent or a gift or a power which the community needs, and needs supremely, and who is too indolent to train for that social service, or too selfish to make that needed social contribution, that man or that woman violates not only the eternal law of the social order, but sins also against the inexorable law of one's own moral nature. And for that sin one must pay in full the utmost farthing demanded by the moral order of the universe.

And that law of social service holds everywhere. It holds in Canada, in Germany, in No Man's Land. Wherever there is a social order, wherever two or three are gathered together, wherever there is a Cain and an Abel, that social obligation holds, and that social service is required. Believe in God or in no god, believe in the Bible or in no bible, believe in the Church or in no church, the law of human society, in every part of the moral universe, for gods, for men, for devils, makes social service an obligation whose transgression is a sin. And, by the

machinery can be set in motion. According to present indications it will take at least a month before all the regulations under the act are drafted, and these selection tribunals appointed. After that the first class will be called out, and then the tribunals will hear the applications for exemptions.

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make necessary these war demands.

Ordered human society is threatened by the organized brute-force enemies of the world's social order. Society calls out its fit members to resist these brute-force attacks. Another hundred thousand fit and trained and equipped soldiers are deemed necessary at this very moment. As Ralph Connor called out so loudly in The Globe only yesterday, the Canadian lads in the trenches are beseeching us to "close up" and to "carry on." We must answer that call, and answer with men. And we must answer now.

But the call is not alone for a hundred thousand more soldiers for the trenches in Europe, or leaving the millions of Canadians as "exemptions" in Canada. It is not that. It can't be that.

The call of Canada this day is to all Canadians, and is not for exemption, but for service. And no Canadian is loyal who seeks exemption, or who wants exemption, or who thinks exemption. The real battlefronts are not only where the shells shriek over the dugouts of death. The fronts where real victories are lost or are won are in the minds and hearts and consciences of men and women, where thoughts are renegade or are loyal, and where powers to serve are traitors or are heroes.

It is back to the judgment hall of conscience we must go, and up to the solitary place where each stands alone with duty. The recruiting officer may be fooled. The medical examiner may be misled. But the man who plays fast and loose with himself, who is afraid of duty,

THURSDAY, OCT 18, 1917

and who backs away from service—that is the man against whom in the silences of his own conscience-chamber the words of doom are uttered: "Thou Fool!"

Service is the inescapable demand of the eternal law of the social order. That law is no respecter of persons. There are no exemptions. Whoever does not serve to the fullest capacity is, by that measure of slackness, a traitor. Whoever will not serve is a moral suicide.

Yes, these are serious issues. But in Canada the times are serious. And, in any case, life itself is not a joke.

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same inflexible justice, the soul that sinneth it
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At the present moment in Canada the Act of
Parliament is on the statute books requiring all
men within specified ages to present themselves
for examination as to their fitness for military
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FARMERS AROUSED BY MILITARY ACT

Point to the Need of
Experienced Help to
Till the Soil.

PRODUCTION IS NEEDED

Big Mass Meeting Held
at Unionville on
Saturday Night.

Unionville, May 5.—A thousand farmers packed themselves into the Unionville Hall last night to discuss the new Conscription bill and its relation to them. They came from all over York County, some driving 25 miles to be present at the mass meeting previous to the departure of their delegates to Ottawa. Nine other branches of the United Farmers joined with Unionville to instruct the delegates in regard to the feeling of the York farmers.

"The Hun is coming, and we have got to stop him," said R. W. E. Burnaby, president of the W. F. O. "We want to make sacrifices, the same as others are doing, but the question is: Can we do more fighting than producing food? If the Government remains convinced that men are needed more than food, after we have showed them the conditions on the farms, we won't complain; we will cheerfully do our bit." Mr. Burnaby appealed for the closing of the non-essential industries. He thought the farmers should be the last to be conscripted. The Manufacturers' Association was too strong to allow the free entry of agricultural implements. The labor unions are too strong to allow labor to be conscripted for farm work. The farmers alone are unorganized, and as a result cannot protest successfully against anything, he said.

Few Experienced Men.

Reeve Padgett, of Markham, presented statistics to show that on blocks of 1,000 acres in Markham Township there are only eleven men between the ages of 20 and 60 years. On one block there are only nine men between these ages. It is impossible, he said, for eleven men to work 1,000 acres successfully.

"We are scandalized, shocked, dismayed," said Mr. Walter Scott, of Victoria Square, "that the backbone of the country is to be taken. The promise made by the Minister of Militia to the electors we took at par value; now it is just another scrap of paper. If by means of this war measure the war can be brought to a satisfactory conclusion, and if it is in the interest of the allies, the farmers will gladly consent to it. Unless the Government, however, have some information which has not yet been divulged to us, they have taken a step the result of which they do not see. The future must be prepared for, but conditions on farms undermanned this year will not be favorable for a bumper crop next year.

Mr. Alexander Bruce, Gormely, cited many instances of farmers changing their seeding programmes owing to the order-in-Council. Many, he said, are putting in no hoed crop, and much land that should be plowed is being left. Already preparations are being made by several farmers for the sale of live stock and in the dairy business, one man who is a prominent Holstein breeder, is selling out his herd because his only son has been conscripted.

R. J. Campbell, of Ringwood, said that the Government attitude was: "You must go; we may provide help; Mr. Rowell's war widows had already done enough for their country; the men on the street corners, which Frank Carvell promised were inexperienced and useless."

Mr. R. E. Hicks resented the pre-election promises to the farmers, as a solution of the labor problem. He proposed that all men who had, during the past few years, left the farms, for the city, should be conscripted and brought back, as this was the only way to provide the experienced help needed. "We must remember that we are the sons of pioneers who cleared this country and must stand our ground."

The chairman of the meeting, Mr. S. L. Stiver, challenged the press to answer the question: What is to be done on the farms? He gave the following instances of conditions on farms in the County of York: On 108 acres a farmer 70 years of age has but one son, who is ordered to report on May 9th. A brother and sister work 100 acres and the brother must report on May 9th. Two men, both crippled more or less, and only one of them capable of riding the farm machinery, have one boy to help them, and he must report on May 9th.

RAIDS ON CHINAMEN.

Plainclothesmen Marshall and Sullivan yesterday raided an alleged opium joint on York Street and arrested Moy Yung as the keeper. Chun You was

Conscription Law.

CONSCRIPTION IS ON TO-DAY

Final Formalities in Senate
Set for 4 P. M.

Takes Weeks to Get Machinery
Going.

Ottawa, Aug. 28.—Owing to a last-minute hitch in the formalities connected with the Royal assent to the military service bill, another day's delay has been occasioned in making the measure the law of the land. It was the intention of the Government yesterday to have formal assent given to the bill in the Senate this afternoon by the Acting Administration, Hon. Justice Duff, in the absence of his Excellency the Governor-General in Toronto, and of Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, the Deputy Governor-General, who is at his summer home down the St. Lawrence.

Before bills are formally and publicly assented to in the Senate they have to be signed by the Governor-General, or by someone formally commissioned for that purpose.

Yesterday the military service bill was signed by Mr. Justice Duff, but it appears that afterwards some doubt arose as to his constitutional authority to sign the measure on behalf of the King. A new copy of the bill, as formerly engrossed, was accordingly hurriedly prepared, and sent by special messenger to Toronto for the signature of his Excellency the Governor-General.

The bill was signed by the Governor-General at 6 o'clock Tuesday. The Governor-General also signed two other bills which had been sent up, the Toronto, Hamilton & Buffalo Railway bill, and the bill to amend the Customs act.

The signed bill will be back in the Capital in the morning, and to-morrow afternoon at 4 o'clock the final formalities of public assent will take place in the Senate Chamber. At that hour selective conscription becomes law.

The machinery for making the selective drafts to be started by the Government, and the process of appointing the appeal tribunals and preparing the actual calling out of the men of the first class is likely to take up several weeks at least.

But the one part of the measure which can become operative at once is that in regard to the penalties imposed for agitation against the enforcement of the act or even criticism of its provisions.

Whether or not the Government will enforce the penalties at once and summarily arrest and try anyone who speaks or writes against conscription from to-morrow on remains to be seen.

The probabilities are, however, that a proclamation will first be issued, calling public attention to the provisions of the act, and giving due notice and warning as to the date such penalties will be enforced.

The military service act is to be brought into effect by proclamation by order in council. This, accordingly, is all that is now necessary to enforce conscription.

Civilization is surely advancing, although its progress may sometimes seem slow. African traders, who used to supply Uganda with rum, calico, brass wire and beads, are now doing a roaring trade in wrist watches.—The Youth's Companion.

CONSCRIPTION ACT SIGNED.

The Military Service Bill was signed by the Duke of Devonshire in Toronto yesterday, and to-day upon receiving the assent of the Senate, will become law, and its provisions be in full operation except those relating to the calling out of the men. It will take about three weeks to get tribunals formed and other preliminary work done. After that the first class of conscripts will be called up by royal proclamation. We do not anticipate any difficulty in the enforcement of the Act. There is a widespread belief among the people that the Act is necessary. The people have only one object in view—that is enabling Canada to do her full share in the winning of the war. They will be satisfied with nothing less. Even in the Province of Quebec we do not anticipate any active resistance to the measure if the work is gone about in a proper manner. There are severe penalties attached to the Act which should be a deterrent to those who would wish to obstruct the enforcement of the law. The Government has now the matter very much in its own hands and a good deal depends upon the way in which it will be enforced.

The people themselves can do much to make the enforcement of the Act easy by helping to create a healthy public opinion in its favor and in encouraging the young men to present themselves for service as soon as they are called up.

CONSCRIPTION.

Origin and Spread of the Military Draft.

Conscription originated in France in 1798. At that time the country had just passed through the long and bloody war of the French revolution, which the monarchs of Europe had banded together to crush. France, under Napoleon, had come forth victorious, but her army was exhausted, and it was evident that some new system of recruiting would be necessary, as volunteer enlistment no longer sufficed.

It was then that General Jourdan brought forth and passed the law establishing conscription. Since then it has been the basis of all French military legislation and, to a certain extent, of that of all other countries.

It was through the terrible power of conscription that Napoleon was enabled to carry on the gigantic wars means of it, after losing the snows of which characterised his reign and by Russia the largest army that up until that time had ever been put into the field, to appear a few months later with another army almost as large.

Out of necessity the other nations were forced to follow France's example, and conscription became general.

Under the French regime every citizen between the ages of twenty and twenty-five was liable to service for five years. Prussia, however, still further developed the powers of conscription by reducing the period of service in the ranks and passing her soldiers as soon as they were sufficiently trained into a reserve force, and thus by degrees training her whole population.

This latter system, which was considered as one of the most far-reaching and important events of the last century, owed its origin to the conditions imposed on Prussia by Napoleon at the treaty of Tilsit, whereby Prussia was restricted to a standing army of 43,000 men. She kept to the number of the law by maintaining her army at the prescribed number, but her trained citizen reserve force was limited only by the population of the country.—Philadelphia Ledger.



NOTICE—MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1917
REGISTRATION OF
UNITED STATES CITIZENS

Male citizens of the United States living in Canada of AGES 21-30, both inclusive, **MUST REGISTER BY REGISTERED POST** with the Registrar under the Military Service Act of the district in which they live, during the **TEN DAYS NEXT FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 28th, 1918**; and such **CITIZENS OF THE AGES 19, 20 AND 31-44**, both inclusive, must so register during the **TEN DAYS NEXT FOLLOWING OCTOBER 12th, 1918**. It must be emphasized that **THIS INCLUDES AMERICANS LIVING IN CANADA OF THE ABOVE AGES, MARRIED AND SINGLE**, and includes **ALSO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SECURED DIPLOMATIC EXEMPTION OR HAVE REGISTERED WITH AN AMERICAN CONSUL, or HAVE REGISTERED FOR MILITARY SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES.**

Registration letters may be handed to local Postmasters for despatch to the proper Registrar, under the Military Service Act.

MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH.



NOTICE—MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1917
MEN EXEMPTED AS FARMERS

Having in view the importance of leaving a sufficient number of men on those farms, which are actually contributing to the National Food Supply, notice is hereby given as follows :

1. ALL MEMBERS OF CLASS I POSSESSING EXEMPTION AS FARMERS which is expiring and WHO WISH TO REMAIN EXEMPT should communicate with the Registrars under the M.S.A., of their respective districts, REQUESTING AN EXTENSION IN TIME OF SUCH EXEMPTION. Questionnaires will thereupon be issued to these men by the Registrar and they will receive further exemption upon furnishing satisfactory proof that they are contributing sufficiently to the National Food Supply.

2. In order to facilitate productive employment during the Winter months, MEN EXEMPTED AS FARMERS SHOULD APPLY TO THE REGISTRARS FOR PERMITS TO ENGAGE FOR THE WINTER IN SOME OCCUPATION OF NATIONAL INTEREST, SUCH AS LUMBERING, MUNITION WORK, ETC. Such permits will serve to enable exempted farmers to pursue other useful occupations for the months during which farming operations cannot be carried on.

MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH.

WAR TIME ELECTION ACT NOW BEFORE PARLIAMENT

Made With a View to Win the Election Rather Than Win the War.

No Votes For Women Except Soldiers Relatives--Aliens Disfranchised

Hamilton Times Sept 7-1917

Ottawa, Sept. 6.—The war-time elections act, introduced in the Commons this afternoon, lives up to its advance notices, as being a decidedly drastic measure, ostensibly designed, as its sponsor, Hon. Arthur Meighen, put it, to make "obligation to war service the basis of war franchise," and really designed, as members of the Opposition say, to load the dice for the coming elections.

The promise that Sir Robert Borden gave early in the session that before Parliament ended, the Government would provide for a general measure of female suffrage, is not kept. Instead, the franchise is given only to the wives, widows, mothers, sisters and daughters of men who have served outside of Canada in the Canadian Expeditionary or other Allied Forces, or inside or outside Canada in the Canadian or British Naval Force. No other women, no matter what their war service or sacrifice may have been, are given the right to vote.

SWEEPING DISFRANCHISEMENT.

All citizens of Canada who are of alien enemy birth, unless they have been naturalized before the last fifteen years, and the Poles and other immigrants from European countries whose mother-tongue is that of one of the enemy nations, are struck from the lists. There is no provision for allowing these men, although many thousands of them are now good citizens of Canada, contributing to the Patriotic Fund, law-abiding and pro-Ally, to retain the rights they have enjoyed hitherto in the matter of franchise. An exception, however, is made in the cases of the grandfathers and fathers of alien enemy origin who have sons at the front. In such case, the fathers and grandfathers are not disfranchised.

Hon. Arthur Meighen, in introducing the war time elections act, said: "The bill which I now present, affects only an election in time of war or during mobilization, and goes out of existence entirely when such period is over."

"The necessity of a war time elections act arises solely from the fact that there is a war time election, and the purpose of the bill now introduced is solely to meet the extraordinary conditions encountered in the necessity of deciding at such a time, by an electoral contest, so vital an issue as now confronts the Canadian people."

"We find ourselves compelled to submit what is really the destiny of our country to the arbitrament of the ballot at a time when the best part of our manhood is struggling in the throes of a death combat overseas. Upwards of 300,000 of the sons of Canada are absent from our shores, and of those 300,000 it is a moral certainty that a large percentage will not be physically able to exercise the franchise. The nearer we approach the reality that a general election is inevitable, the more regrettable the necessity for such an election appears."

UNJUST TO COUNTRY'S DEFENDERS.

"We have passed a military voters' bill, which to the best of our power places the franchise within the reach of our fighting men, but no effort of this Parliament can do the impossible and enable all, or nearly all, of these fighting men to vote. It may indeed transpire that a relatively large proportion are in effect, though not by statute, disfranchised. An election therefore in war time, and particularly at this stage of the war, is an injustice, and a great injustice, to the overseas soldiers of Canada; and of all classes to whom a country should never be unjust, the first is that country's defenders."

"But this is not all. The entire personal force and influence of these 300,000 men is stripped from them for the purpose of this contest. They are the foremost of our sons, the very bone, sinew and virility of Canada. Those at home who should be at home, and those at home who should be overseas, are in the full enjoyment not only of their ballot, but of the exertion of all their faculties in whatever direction they desire to exert them in this contest; but a penalty falls on those who have been true enough and brave enough to fight our battles, in that they are deprived in part of the ballot and wholly of their electoral influence."

"Nor can we forget that some 30,000 have already fallen in the struggle. Their voices are still, while the voices of those who remained behind can be heard, and will be heard. Some thousands more are prisoners of war, and are suffering hardships unpeakable, for the sake of those at home. These men can have no voice, but those for whom they suffer are in the full enjoyment of every privilege of citizenship."

"The consideration to which I have referred will, I think, make it plain to the minds of all that if a contest at the polls must come, Parliament must address itself to the task of bringing about such electoral conditions as will repair as fully as Parliament can repair the injustice that would under an ordinary franchise fall upon our soldiers overseas. To do this is the primary purpose of the bill which is now introduced. The task has not been an easy one."

SOLDIERS' WOMANFOLK ENFRANCHISED.

"It is proposed that by a measure of women enfranchisement added strength shall be given to the voice of the soldiers of Canada. Those of their nearest kin at home may be presumed to be most likely to re-echo the sentiments of their sons, husbands and brothers overseas, and by this bill the nearest female relatives

of the men of our expeditionary forces who have left the shores of Canada are given the right to vote. The wives or widows, the mothers, the daughters, and the sisters of overseas soldiers are by this bill enfranchised.

"It will be remembered that earlier in the session the Prime Minister intimated to Parliament that, in his judgment, it would be proper to extend the franchise to the women of Canada, subject to such conditions and limitations as Parliament might provide and that whatever extension of the franchise was made to one province should be made to all. Under the abnormal circumstances precipitated by the present war, the measure of woman suffrage which I have just outlined is deemed fitting and does indeed constitute, in my judgment, a reasonably general extension of the franchise to women. It will be obvious to all that, having regard to the fact that as all female immigrants to this country from Europe or from elsewhere have become naturalized by marriage or by the naturalization of a parent, and without entailing upon themselves any special oath or obligation, an unlimited admission of women to the franchise at this time would be unfair and unreasonable. A line of limitation must, therefore, be found. The principal reason for adopting the line laid down by this bill is that it is the only means of extending to the soldiers living, dead or in chains an adequate voice in the decision of a great electoral contest fraught with consequences peculiarly vital to themselves."

WAR SERVICE BASIS OF FRANCHISE.

"War service should be the basis of war franchise. It has been our purpose to make this, as far as possible, the central principle of the bill now introduced. It is true that war service does not consist wholly of the sacrifice of the husband or the brother for the purposes of the battlefield, but such sacrifice is the greatest of all, and I believe the women of Canada generally will consider it not unfair that such sacrifice should have special recognition. When the war is over a wider franchise may well be given the women of Canada, and it is my earnest hope and belief that the step now taken may lead to such result."

"So far as legislation can attain the end, the obligation to war service and the right to war franchise should go hand in hand. On this principle, which underlies this act, it is proposed that those who, for reasons special to themselves, are unavailable for the highest of war service, should not, while exempted from such war service, be in the position to exercise a measure of control over those who bear the burden. We have in Canada, broadly speaking, two classes so exempt. The one class is now exempt by law, and the other has been in effect exempt, and is by this act made exempt by law."

"The first class referred to consists of those entitled under the military service act to be relieved on conscientious grounds from combatant service, and the second class is constituted by that portion of our foreign population who have recently come to Canada, and are of alien enemy birth or near extraction."

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS.

"As to the conscientious objectors, it is not considered right that those who refuse on conscientious grounds to bear arms should be enabled in the midst of a war either to compel others to fight for them or to deny to those who do battle the right to reinforcements. If it is their belief that a nation should not defend itself by arms, and if on that belief they refuse to fight for the existence of their country, then they should not be in a position to exercise control over their country, while it is in arms and while it has to fight to live. This, I believe, will be the view shared in the main by themselves. We find no fault with them for their beliefs. This is a free country, and they have been welcomed to our shores, but they will, I am sure, deem it not unfair that those who are liable to do battle and to all the sacrifices of war should constitute the democracy which controls the destiny of the country in the time of war."

ENEMY ALIENS.

"As to the second class, those born in enemy countries and who have in recent years become naturalized in Canada, and those who, though born in European countries not geographically within the enemies' domain, are nevertheless of German, Austrian, or Turkish blood, kin and language, it has, from the commencement of hostilities, been found undesirable to enlist them for combatant service. I am free to admit, and, indeed, proud to say, that in the main, having regard to peaceful pursuits within this country, this portion of our population has, all things considered, conducted itself satisfactorily. Many of them, however, have sons or brothers, their very nearest of kin, fighting against us on the soil of Europe. It would seem unnatural, even were it desirable, to compel these men to do battle against their kin and against the country from which they can scarcely wholly as yet be divorced in sympathy."

"Great Britain has recognized this principle since the outbreak of the war, and with very few exceptions has declined to admit to her army men of alien enemy birth or near extraction. The Commonwealth of Australia, in legislating for a general election held there some months ago, refused to admit to the franchise all of its citizens of alien enemy birth, no matter how long they had been in the country."

CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS MADE.

"By this bill only such as have been naturalized since March 31, 1902, are affected. All others are left un-

touched. In Australia an exception was made of Armenians and Assyrians, and of those who had sons or brothers enlisted. In Canada we make the same exception, and we except also those whose grandsons joined the forces.

"Furthermore, the bill specifically states that wherever there is disfranchisement for this war election, there goes with it exemption from combatant service. Under the military service act no man will be forced to fight who is not under this act allowed to vote."

"Included among those of enemy birth naturalized within the last fifteen years, are those who, though born in other European countries, speak as their mother-tongue the language of an alien enemy. These may fairly be presumed to be of near enemy extraction, and not essentially different from those of enemy birth. To them also is granted exemption from combat service under the compulsion law. Wherever the privilege of voting is withheld the exemption from military service is granted, and extends also to their sons who are under age."

"I may add that as to both these cases there have come from some of the people themselves, requests that this step be taken. Plainly it is not fair either to these men themselves that they should be called upon to vote upon an issue which means the sending or withholding of troops who will go to do battle against their kin, and on the other hand it certainly is not fair to the rest of our people, on whose shoulders and on whose hearts is the burden of the war, that its conduct and its vigor should be even in part determined by those who cannot participate and whose sympathies and predisposition of necessity cannot be as those of the rest of Canada."

PROVINCIAL QUALIFICATIONS IN GENERAL.

"Beyond the two features I have mentioned, namely, the addition of women and disqualification of a certain limited class of aliens, the Provincial franchise and qualification for voters are adopted throughout every Province."

"These are the main features of this act. The alteration of the franchise, of course, requires adjustments in the machinery of the preparation of lists. Hitherto, Provincial lists have been adapted in seven of the Provinces, and the Dominion has made its own lists in Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Yukon. By this bill Provincial lists are still adopted wherever they exist, and so far as it is possible to adopt them. In the four Western Provinces where the Provincial lists contain the names of all women as well as men they cannot, of course, be adopted, and provision is made for the preparation of the lists in these four Provinces in like manner to the method obtaining for the past twelve years in the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan and in the Yukon."

SWEARING-IN RESTRICTED.

"In those Provinces, however, the unlimited right to swearing-in voters on the day of polling was considered unjust to the Opposition, and this right is now restricted by making such votes subject afterwards to judicial review. Provision is also made for challenging a voter who has been placed on the list by the enumerator, and making his ballot also subject to judicial review. This method is extended as well to the Province of Prince Edward Island, where there are no lists that can be adopted."

"In the other Provinces the lists already prepared and now in the course of preparation Provincially will be used, and only such enumeration will be made as is required to place the qualified women voters on the list, and to erase such names as cannot vote under the cause respecting aliens."

NEW LISTS FOR ONTARIO CITIES.

"In the cities of Ontario, however, there are no complete lists at present in existence, and for these cities new lists will be prepared along lines similar to those laid down by the Provincial statutes, but necessarily more expeditious. For these cities lists will be judicially reviewed, and will be closed. Throughout Canada, wherever the lists are not judicially reviewed before the election, and for such portions as may not be judicially reviewed, there will be the power to vote on certificate, and there will be the right to challenge a vote granted by the enumerator, and to compel such vote also to go in by certificate. These votes are placed in an envelope, and are subject to judicial review on a recount. The principle is that all lists in Canada will virtually be judicially revised."

"It has been the intention of the Government that absolute fairness shall characterize the making of the lists and all the machinery for the making of the lists, and it is believed that this bill so provides."

SIR WILFRID ASKS QUESTIONS.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier did not have any observations to offer as to the merits of the bill. He said that it was not the occasion to discuss the principle of the measure. He, however, asked a number of questions, which were replied to by the Solicitor-General. Mr. Meighen assured Sir Wilfrid that Assyrians and Armenians who are naturalized will have the right to vote.

"I am glad to hear that," Sir Wilfrid replied.

Sir Wilfrid also inquired as to the effect of the measure in the Provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, where the women now have the franchise.

Mr. Meighen replied in effect that in these Provinces the right of women to vote would be confirmed to the relatives of soldiers, as already explained.

After the bill had been given first reading, Mr. Meighen stated that it would be taken up for further consideration to-morrow. The Opposition leader objected, on the score that it was an important measure and the members should have time to discuss it.

Mr. Meighen replied that there was little other business before Parliament.

The orders of the day were called before the matter was definitely decided.

Sir Thomas White, Minister of Finance, gave denial to a statement emanating from Toronto to the effect that it had been decided to increase military pensions by sixty per cent. This announcement, he said, was without authority, the Government not having arrived at any decision as to the increase in pensions to be granted.

CONSERVATIVES GLOAT OVER IT.

Conservatives frankly and enthusiastically proclaimed the bill as a purely party measure. "Good-bye, Grits," they chanted in the corridors,

"we've got you now." They gloried in the fact that the bill "had good sharp teeth," and the praises of Hon. Robert Rogers were sung loud and long. The measure is openly credited to the Honorable "Bob," and it is claimed that the price Premier Borden paid for continued life in leadership at the recent caucus was the abandonment of his previously expressed abhorrence for a drastic franchise act and an acceptance of that part of the Rogers programme.

Hon. Arthur Meighen, the new Secretary of State, who introduced the bill, which stood in the name of the Premier, said he did so owing to the regrettable illness of Sir Robert Borden. The Premier was confined to his home yesterday and to-day, and the rumor persists that he did not enthuse over the task of standing sponsor for the measure his erstwhile colleague had forced upon the Government.

THE BILL'S LEADING POINTS.

The outstanding features of the bill itself, as submitted to the House by Mr. Meighen, are the disfranchisement in all provinces where women now have votes, of all women who are not wives, widows, mothers, sisters or daughters of men who served in the overseas Canadian forces; the enfranchisement in all provinces where they have not votes of all women who are wives, widows, mothers, sisters or daughters of men who served in the overseas forces; the disfranchisement of all Canadian citizens of alien enemy birth or blood who have been naturalized since March 31, 1902, a period of fifteen years, and the disfranchisement of all exempted from the operation of the military service act by reason of conscientious objection and of all who may be convicted of offences under the military service act.

In the case of the women voters, the statutory law for male voters as to age, race and residence operates. From the operation of the alien enemy disfranchisement, Armenians and Syrians out of sympathy with Turkey are exempted.

New machinery is provided for the preparation of the voters' lists. For Ontario the existing lists stand, except for the abandonments provided.

TO BE TAKEN UP FRIDAY.

Parliament will proceed with the consideration of the measure to-morrow, despite the protest of the Opposition. The bill, Mr. Meighen announced, would be printed to-morrow morning and be ready for the afternoon sitting. Sir Wilfrid Laurier thought more reasonable opportunity should be given the members to study the measure, which was one of great importance and possibly far-reaching consequences. It was not fair treatment to place the measure in the hands of members just before the sitting and require them to proceed with informed and intelligent consideration of it. In view of the fact that the Conservative members were reported to have had two caucuses upon the measure, Liberals claimed opportunity should be given them to discuss it before its consideration in the House.

Replying to Sir Wilfrid Laurier's request not to proceed peremptorily with the consideration of the measure to-morrow, Mr. Meighen stated it was late in the session, and it was better to proceed at once.

"I am sorry the bill has been brought down so late, but the fault is not ours," replied Sir Wilfrid. "It gives very little time for the consideration it deserves."

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NON-REGISTERS NOT EXEMPTED

Hamilton Oct 24 1917
(By Times Special Wire.)

Montreal, Oct. 23.—Registrar Godin to-day issued a warning to men who come under the operations of the Military Service Act. He pointed out that those who don't register will be drafted, and if the tribunals are too busy with exemption claims they will go into the army without a hearing on their exemption claims.

ONLY GRADE A CALLED FOR THE FIRST DRAFT

No Rejection Slips, But
Copies of the Examination
Given Out.

SOME NEW RULES

Hamilton Times Sep 14 1917
Squint, Partial Deafness,
Loss of Finger or Toe
Does Not Bar.

The new machinery for the examination of recruits under the Military Service Act, together with the latest amendments to the medical classifications to guide the doctors in the categorizing of the men, was set in motion by the new medical boards with the stroke of two o'clock, this afternoon. Everything was ready for the reception of the candidates, who will be put through their paces with all speed, and so thorough has been been the arrangements that little confusion, consequent upon the inauguration of the new system is anticipated by the officers at the local mobilization centre.

The latest revision of the medical system, shows a tightening up over the old method. Lieut.-Col. R. A. Robertson, O. C., of the centre, stated positively to-day, that only men who are found to be physically fit and eligible to come under the first classification, will be called in the draft. This means that men who through some defect in their physical make-up, do not come under Grade A, will still have to volunteer under the old system, if they desire to enter the service.

No rejection slips are issued to the men who come up for classification, but they are given, instead, a copy of their medical history sheet, which shows what category they have been placed in. Under the former plan, men who were fit according to the first classification, were allowed to enlist in some lower branch of the service if they desired, but this will not be permitted under the revised method.

The inevitable result of the amendments is that hundreds of men will be put in Grade A, and classed as infantrymen who formerly might have slipped through and been listed as overseas non-combatants. Perhaps the greatest shock of all will be that which comes to many young men who have been relying on defective vision to stand between them and Grade A service, the latest regulations stating that any man whose eyesight can be improved with glasses to see to shoot, and who has no other physical defect sufficient in itself to debar him, shall be listed as fit for duty in the first category, that is, for infantry service. Future tests of eyesight will not be made with the naked eye alone, as any man showing a sufficient defect with the naked eye to bar him from the first grade, will be tried out by an eye specialist with a variety of lenses to see whether or not, with proper treatment, his sight could be brought up to a point where he could see to shoot. From the standpoint of eye-sight, a man must be in pretty bad shape to miss Grade B., that is, overseas non-combatant service. Even though the applicant may be totally blind in one eye, if he has fair vision with the other, with the use of glasses, he is to be put in Grade B. The only eye condition which will completely bar an applicant for some form of service is near or total blindness in one eye from a disease which already has, or threatens to affect the other eye. It may be interesting to the general public to know that a squint, though of the compound variety which affects both eyes, is not a handicap to the fighting aspirant.

Another striking amendment shoves the man with one missing finger from Grade B up to Grade A, while the man with one or two of the lesser toes missing from either or both feet also becomes a fighter. There was once a time when an applicant suffering from hernia was recommended for an operation at the Government expense, but now the regulations state that if the hernia can be securely held by a truss, the man shall be put in Grade A. Otherwise he becomes a total reject, as there are no intervening stages for this trouble. Suspected cases of pulmonary tuberculosis are to be carefully investigated, and already this order has resulted in a number of applicants being instructed to return later. In cases of acute colds, the medical men find it impossible to determine whether or not the lungs or bronchial tubes have been permanently affected. The question of poor hearing promises to bar a few, but the man with little or no hearing in one ear will be put in Grade A, provided he can hear the ordinary voice with the other ear at a distance of twenty-one feet while

From Times Sep 24 17
Plans which appear on the point of adoption by the U. S. War Department provide that the examination of the nearly 10,000,000 men who registered for military service shall not halt on the acceptance of the 680,000 of the first increment into the National Army, but shall continue until every man's physical condition and liability to exemption shall have been passed upon. We suppose that a similar rule will be followed in this country.

TO DRAFT THE ALIENS.

The Senate of the United States passed an Alien Draft bill and sent it on to the Lower House for approval, but President Wilson has stepped in, we are told, to block the progress of the bill. The bill was intended to permit of the drafting of alien subjects friendly to the Allies into the United States army. The reason for this intervention is reported to be that treaties will presently be concluded with Great Britain, France and Italy, the United States and perhaps Russia, permitting the drafting of their subjects into the American army. It is estimated that if the principle of the alien draft Senate resolution becomes operative it will open the way for the enlistment of 1,000,000 aliens. It further provides that citizens of Germany or other enemy aliens may be drafted for other than military service under regulations prescribed by the War Department.

Hamilton supporting men so low and base as to bar their interests for a few votes," declared Mr. Platt. Peter Ray again loomed on the horizon, shouting the praises of Mr. Kelley, of the Board of Trade, who had been at the head of the "protection to the farmers making a 15 per cent. profit on their product, and invited the investigation of the Mayor and aldermen as to their profits under the present conditions, as did all of the farmers everywhere.
"I am surprised at the citizens of Hamilton supporting men so low and base as to bar their interests for a few votes," declared Mr. Platt. Peter Ray again loomed on the horizon, shouting the praises of Mr. Kelley, of the Board of Trade, who had been at the head of the "protection to the farmers making a 15 per cent. profit on their product, and invited the investigation of the Mayor and aldermen as to their profits under the present conditions, as did all of the farmers everywhere.
he qualifies for Grade B if he has lost the hearing of one ear and understands the ordinary voice with the other at fifteen feet. Enlarged tonsils are no longer a barrier to service, the regulations stating that where the removal of chronically inflamed tonsils will fit a man for Grade A, an operation should be performed. On the whole, the medical regulations are gradually tightening down, and perhaps a study of the above will enable the average applicant to form some idea as to just what will be his fate before the medical board.
Tommy Wright
Mr. Ray feels
been given a
because of the
Controllers and
not understand
oughly as they
Fred Poole,
ed that if there
people who he
than another,
He felt that
Given the imp
was not the
thought that it
ance on the part of the Mayor that
he should allow such expressions to
escape from the council chamber re-
specting the farmers.
Mr. Platt, of Millgrove, called the
attention of the meeting of the state-
ment of Russell Kelley in a speech
in his district, when he declared that
he was sure there would be no ob-
jection to the farmers making a 15
per cent. profit on their product, and
invited the investigation of the Mayor
and aldermen as to their profits under
the present conditions, as did all of
the farmers everywhere.

10

NON-REGISTERS NOT EXEMPTED

Hamilton Oct 24 1917
(By Times Special Wire.)

Montreal, Oct. 23.—Registrar Godin to-day issued a warning to men who come under the operations of the Military Service Act. He pointed out that those who don't register will be drafted, and if the tribunals are too busy with exemption claims they will go into the army without a hearing on their exemption claims.

ONLY GRADE A CALLED FOR THE FIRST DRAFT

No Rejection Slips, But
Copies of the Examination
Given Out.

SOME NEW RULES

Hamilton Times Sept 14 1917
Squint, Partial Deafness,
Loss of Finger or Toe
Does Not Bar.

The new machinery for the examination of recruits under the Military Service Act, together with the latest amendments to the medical classifications to guide the doctors in the categorizing of the men, was set in motion by the new medical boards with the stroke of two o'clock, this afternoon. Everything was ready for the reception of the candidates, who will be put through their paces with all speed, and so thorough has been the arrangements that little confusion, consequent upon the inauguration of the new system is anticipated by the officers at the local mobilization centre.

The latest revision of the medical system, shows a tightening up over the old method. Lieut.-Col. R. A. Robertson, O. C., of the centre, stated positively to-day, that only men who are found to be physically fit and eligible to come under the first classification, will be called in the draft. This means that men who through some defect in their physical make-up, do not come under Grade A, will still have to volunteer under the old system, if they desired to enter the service.

No rejection slips are issued to the men who come up for classification, but they are given, instead, a copy of their medical history sheet, which shows what category they have been placed in. Under the former plan, men who were fit according to the first classification, were allowed to enlist in some lower branch of the service if they desired, but this will not be permitted under the revised method.

The inevitable result of the amendments is that hundreds of men will be put in Grade A, and classed as infantrymen who formerly might have slipped through and been listed as overseas non-combatants. Perhaps the greatest shock of all will be that which comes to many young men who have been relying on defective vision to stand between them and Grade A service, the latest regulations stating that any man whose eyesight can be improved with glasses to see to shoot, and who has no other physical defect sufficient in itself to debar him, shall be listed as fit for duty in the first category, that is, for infantry service. Future tests of eyesight will not be made with the naked eye alone, as any man showing a sufficient defect with the naked eye to bar him from the first grade, will be tried out by an eye specialist with a variety of lenses to see whether or not, with proper treatment, his sight could be brought up to a point where he could see to shoot. From the standpoint of eye sight, a man must be in pretty bad shape to miss Grade B., that is, overseas non-combatant service. Even though the applicant may be totally blind in one eye, if he has fair vision with the other, with the use of glasses, he is to be put in Grade B. The only eye condition which will completely bar an applicant for some form of service is near or total blindness in one eye from a disease which already has, or threatens to affect the other eye. It may be interesting to the general public to know that a squint, though of the compound variety which affects both eyes, is not a handicap to the fighting aspirant.

Another striking amendment shoves the man with one missing finger from Grade B up to Grade A, while the man with one or two of the lesser toes missing from either or both feet also becomes a fighter. There was once a time when an applicant suffering from hernia was recommended for an operation at the Government expense, but now the regulations state that if the hernia can be securely held by a truss, the man shall be put in Grade A. Otherwise he becomes a

Mats

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WHAT YOU WANT.

OUR AD...

from page 24-17
Plans which appear on the point of adoption by the U. S. War Department provide that the examination of the nearly 10,000,000 men who registered for military service shall not halt on the acceptance of the 680,000 of the first increment into the National Army, but shall continue until every man's physical condition and liability to exemption shall have been passed upon. We suppose that a similar rule will be followed in this country.

TO DRAFT THE ALIENS.

The Senate of the United States passed an Alien Draft bill and sent it on to the Lower House for approval, but President Wilson has stepped in, we are told, to block the progress of the bill. The bill was intended to permit of the drafting of alien subjects friendly to the Allies into the United States army. The reason for this intervention is reported to be that treaties will presently be concluded with Great Britain, France and Italy, the United States and perhaps Russia, permitting the drafting of their subjects into the American army. It is estimated that if the principle of the alien draft Senate resolution becomes operative it will open the way for the enlistment of 1,000,000 aliens. It further provides that citizens of Germany or other enemy aliens may be drafted for other than military service under regulations prescribed by the

board of the Board of Trade, who Kelley, shouting the praises of Mr. Peter Ray again loomed on the a few votes," declared Mr. Platt base as to barter their interests for Hamilton supporting men so low and "I am surprised at the citizens of the farmers everywhere. the present conditions, as did all of and alienism as to their profits under Invited the investigation of the Mayor per cent profit on their product, and section to the farmers making a 16 He was sure there would be no ob In his district, when he declared that attention of the meeting of the state Mr. Platt, of Millgrove, called the respecting the farmers. escape from the council chamber re he should allow such expressions to ance on the part of the Mayor that thought that it is a matter of ignor was not the case. Mr. Poole also given the impression that the farmer He felt that it is unfair that he is than another, it is the workman. people who had his sympathy more ed that if there was any one class of Fred Poole, of West Plamboro, stat oughly as they might. not understand the situation as thor- Controllers and the Council, who do because of the actions of the Mayor, been given a fair deal by the people, Mr. Ray feels that the farmer has not Tommy Wrong."

Entering Military Service

WHEN THEY BECAME

How? **SOLDIERS.** *Sep 24/15*

The Military Service act is now in force. Just as soon as the Government proclamation is issued all those who come under Class I.—single men and widowers, without children, from 20 to 34 years of age—become soldiers, and under military law. Section 4, clause 1, of the Act says:

The Governor in Council may from time to time, by proclamation, call out on active service, as aforesaid, for the defence of Canada, either in Canada or beyond Canada, any class or subclass of men described in section three, and all men within the class or subclass so called out shall, from the date of such proclamation, be deemed to be soldiers enlisted in the Military Forces of Canada and subject to military law for the duration of the present war, and of demobilization thereafter, save as hereinafter provided.

Section 2 declares that men so called out shall report and be placed on active service in the Canadian expeditionary force as may be set out in such proclamation or in regulations, but until so placed on active service shall be deemed to be on leave of absence without pay.

That is to say, all those called out by proclamation will be subject to military law, whether they are placed on active service or not. Suppose Class I. is called out by proclamation. It may be that they will not all be re-

quired for active service. But those not required, unless they be exempted, will remain under military law, and be deemed soldiers, on leave without pay, and liable to be called up at any time. Those who do not report when called up by proclamation will be treated as deserters.

There is a possibility that the men who are not called up for active service abroad may be called upon to undergo a certain amount of training for home defence, and in preparation for a further call upon eligibles for active service. Those men could be joined up with the present militia forces, we suppose.

Army Service. Nature of etc.

ELIGIBLES IN HAMILTON ARE BIG SURPRISE

Capt. T. F. Best Saw More
Here Than in England
or France.

WORK OF THE Y

Former Secretary Here
Gave Fine Address at
St. John Church.

Hamilton Times
Sept 10, 1917

"On the streets of Hamilton I saw more eligible young men than there perhaps are in all France or England. That's what made the tears come to my eyes, and a lump to my throat, which I could not swallow."

Thus spoke Capt. T. F. Best to the large congregation gathered in St. John Presbyterian Church last night. For over an hour the men and women of the congregation, many of whom have boys at the front heard in a small degree of the great benefits wrought by the Y.M.C.A. at the front, Capt. Best having volunteered from the secretaryship of the "Y" here to go overseas in the work.

"If I could choose a text for this sermon to-night," said Capt. Best, "it would be 'Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people.'"

The speaker longed for the power to present to his audience their relationship to the boys in the trenches, from a moral and patriotic standpoint, saying:

"Our interest to-day, even after three years of bloodshed, is but a matter of degree. We have a long way to go yet before we realize our debt to the men at the front."

Speaking of the "Y" organization Capt. Best referred to the Red Cross as a sister organization. In importance the Y.M.C.A. ranks side by side with the Red Cross, for within the huts and dugouts of the "Y" along the front line trenches, many are the soldiers whose wounds are dressed by the first aiders, as well as supplying the physical needs in the matter of hot drinks and foods.

Capt. Best spoke of the thousands who are coming home daily, all but dead; wrecked hopelessly, but the little life left was due to the scientific work of the Red Cross.

The wonderful work of the Y.M.C.A. in the field was touched upon, it being responsible in a great many cases for the delivery of the small boxes of comforts designed for the loved ones. Many thousands of letters were received at the "Y" headquarters begging pitifully for more particulars of the death of a husband, son or brother—the word from military headquarters being of the briefest, barely an announcement of the death of this one or that.

England is just one big military camp at the present time, said Capt. Best. "No one can accuse her of not being alive to the fact that there is a war in Europe. But I am afraid nothing short of a Zeppelin or some other kind of raid will awaken Canada, where eating, drinking—and feasting, even—are going on just the same as if no precious lives were being sacrificed to save her. The theatre, dance hall and all the various amusements absorb thousands of dollars of the money so much needed at the front."

Capt. Best drew a rough sketch of one of the big headquarter rest camps for the boys, telling how the tired troopers come flocking in, filling the big room to capacity. Every known amusement is collected here for their benefit, even to a theatrical equipment confiscated from a travelling troupe which was unwilling to go to the trouble of using it one night, which angered the soldier audience, with the consequence that they never used the scenery again, for the boys took possession of it, and many are the talented performers who come over from England and France to make merry for the boys. The appreciation of these boys is almost pathetic. During some of the jolly times spent in the headquarters' camp such expressions as "Hey, Bill, ain't this a little bit of heaven?" were often heard.

Capt. Best remarked that the Y. M. C. A. work at the front had been criticised as lacking the spiritual side so strongly in evidence here, but to these critics he would say that it would take the combined efforts of a theologian and a philosopher to say when and where the spiritual should be injected in the efforts of the "Y" at the front. Religion and mental relief are dished up on the same platter. The regular services of a strictly religious nature are indulged in every Wednesday evening and on Sundays. Sundays especially are given over for religious exercises in the "Y" headquarters, the Roman Catholics using the big roomy place for early mass in the morning, and the other sects using it according to arrangement. The situation of the camp is far back from the front line trenches, where the big guns are located, which boom intermittently while the boys are strengthening their morale. The crackling of the aircraft machine guns often break upon the joyous music of the boys, but none of these trivial happenings disturb them, scarcely a man taking the trouble to stroll out and make an observation, for which they can get all they want of these things at the front. The wonderful binding influences of the chaplains at the front, men of different creeds, was remarked upon, all of them working unitedly as brothers of the Cross.

The speaker touched upon the ravages of the war in a few descriptive words citing Ypres and other cities which are now laid flat with the exception of an occasional cathedral tower which stands like a jagged tooth amongst the ruins. The advancement of the Canadian front lines, wherein are always to be found the ever-helpful hut of comforts for the soldiers when a "show" is going on at the front, was graphically described from the time when the boys fought the Hun on the hills, themselves down in the lowland trenches hip deep in the muddy water, oftentimes with but a few rounds of ammunition for their artillery. The captain spoke of those bitter days when the Canadian guns had from three to

five rounds of ammunition apiece each day, and how the time came when this was increased to nine rounds, much to the joy of the gunners, who directed an effective bombardment on the Germans, with the result that the Hun guns for miles along the front bombarded the front line trenches killing hundreds of the boys as a retaliation for the misplaced enthusiasm of the elated gunners. But now all is changed, and it is the Hun who is digging himself in, and it is the British guns which throw the most of the shells.

"There has been much comment on the immorality of our boys at the front," said Capt. Best, "but this I want to repudiate in the strangest terms. While there may be an exceptional one who has fallen victim to immorality, the whole contingent must not be judged by these few exceptions. I have been in a position to know the moral standing of the Canadian boys as few men have been, and I can say that these cruel rumors are without foundation. The Canadian home training has its effect on the boys at the front just the same as it has on the boys at home, and I can offer this crumb of comfort to the anxious parents that where this home training has been exercised, the boys at the front under this influence will come back to their parents as clean as they went."

"We had not a chance—not a ghost of a chance—of winning the war, the first two years of the struggle," continued the captain. "Why, we have gained the ascendancy, God alone knows. I, for one, believe that it was a matter of Providence that has guided us to the present stage. But even now, when we have the Hun fighting for his very life, the war is not won by a long way. It took the Zeppelin raids on the coast of England to awaken her to the stern fact that there was a war going on of vital interest to her over there, and I am afraid that there will have to be something of a similar nature to awaken apathetic Canada to the realization of what it will mean to her if the war is not won."

"While it is not fair to mention one to the exclusion of the other heroic souls who have done so much for Canada," continued the speaker, "the name of Col. B. O. Hooper, a member of this church, will be remembered as one of the glowing examples of what self-sacrifice will do, for he has made himself famous at the front. There are scores of others who have done the same, whose example ought to stir the fighting blood of any real man to the pitch of making some sort of an effort to take their place amongst the brave boys at the front. Ah, this spirit of sacrifice is what is needed at the present time. The redemption of the world was built upon sacrifice. Will we Canadians have to be forced to make that sacrifice, while our brothers are dying by the hundreds in those muddy trenches at the front so that the despoiling hand of the tyrant may not work the defacing marks of brutality on our homes and our loved ones as has done in Belgium and Serbia?"

Captain Best ended his stirring appealing by urging that those at home be forgetful enough of pleasures to write the boys many letters. "It is a heart-wrenching thing to see the awful disappointment of those who have come again and again to the postoffice, only to be disappointed, some of them turning away with a bitter smile, remarking, 'I guess the boys at home have forgotten me.'"