



Military Service Act, 1917

Explanatory Announcement by the Minister of Justice

THE MILITARY SERVICE ACT has received the assent of the Governor-General and is now part of the law of the land. It will be enforced accordingly, and the patriotism and good sense of the people can be relied upon to support it. Resistance to its enforcement, however, by word or act must and will be repressed, as resistance to any other law in force must be.

Reinforcements under the Military Service Act immediately required

It is the intention of the Government immediately to exercise the power which the Act confers and to call out men for military service in order to provide reinforcements for the Canadian forces. This is necessary since the military authorities report that the reserves available or in sight for reinforcement will shortly be exhausted unless this step be taken.

First call limited to men between 20 and 34 who were unmarried or widowers without children on July 6, 1917

The present call will be limited to men not in the schedule of exemptions who were unmarried or widowers without children on July 6, 1917, are at least twenty years of age, and were born on or since January 1st, 1853. Of this Class all those will be entitled to conditional exemption whose services in their present occupations, agricultural, industrial or other, are essential in the national interest, and whose business or domestic responsibilities are such that serious hardship would ensue if their services be required. Conscientious scruples based upon a prohibition of combatant service by the articles of faith of the religious denominations to which men belong will also be respected. The men first required to serve will consequently be those who can be called upon with the least disturbance of the economic and social life of the country.

Civil Tribunals to deal with exemptions

Questions of exemption will be determined, not by the military authorities or by the Government, but by civil tribunals composed of representative men who are familiar with local conditions in the communities in which they serve, who will generally have personal knowledge of the economic and family reasons which those whose cases come before them have had for not volunteering their services and who will be able sympathetically to estimate the weight and importance of such reasons. Provincial Appellate Tribunals constituted from the existing judiciary of the respective provinces will be provided to correct mistakes made by Local Tribunals, and a Central Appeal Tribunal for the whole of Canada, selected from among the present judges of the Supreme Court of Canada, will be constituted in order that identical principles may be applied throughout the country. In this way every man may rest assured of the fair and full consideration of his circumstances and the national requirements both civil and military.

Proclamation will announce the day

A proclamation will issue calling out the bachelors and widowers referred to and fixing a day on or before which every man must report for service to the military authorities unless he has before that day made an application for exemption.

How to apply for exemption

Applications for exemption may be made by written notice on forms which will be available at every post office, and will be transmitted free of postage. They will not, however, be required to be made in this way; but may be presented by the applicants in person to the exemption tribunals. The cases of those who have given written notice in advance will take precedence, and appearance in person will therefore be likely to involve considerably more inconvenience and delay to the men concerned, so that it is recommended that advantage be generally taken of the facilities for written application.

Ottawa, September 11, 1917.

Exemption Tribunals in all parts of Canada

The local exemption tribunals will be constituted with the least delay possible, consistent with the selection of representative individuals to compose them, and the instruction of the members in their duties. There will be more than one thousand of such tribunals throughout Canada, each consisting of two members, one of whom will be nominated by a Joint Committee of Parliament, and the other by one of the Judges of the existing Courts. Every effort will be made by the wide distribution of tribunals, and by provision where necessary for their sitting in more than one place, to minimize the inconvenience to which men will be put in obtaining the disposition of their cases.

A Registrar will be appointed in each Province, who will be named in the proclamation and to whom enquiries may be addressed. Each Provincial Registrar will transmit to the appropriate tribunal the applications for exemption which have been submitted in advance of the sitting, and men who have sent these in will not be required to attend the tribunals until notified to do so. Other applicants should attend personally on the tribunal without notice.

How to report for service

Men who do not desire to claim exemption will report to the military authorities for service either by mail or in person at any time after the issue of the proclamation. Forms of report by mail will be found in all post offices, and, like applications for exemption, will be transmitted free of postage.

Early report advantageous

No man who reports for service will, although he may be medically examined and passed as fit, be required to go into camp or join a battalion until after a day fixed by the proclamation sufficiently late to permit of the disposition by the local tribunals of most, if not all, of the applications for exemption which may come before them. Thus an advantage will be gained by delaying or disadvantage incurred by prompt report for service on the part of those who do not intend to apply for exemption.

Facilities for immediate medical examination

Immediately upon the issue of the proclamation, medical boards will sit at every mobilization centre for the examination of men who report for service or who, subject to their right within the time limited to apply for exemption, desire to have their physical fitness determined in order to allay any doubt as to their physical condition, and to know definitely and in advance whether there is a possibility of their services being required. Certificates of physical unfitness issued by these Medical Boards will be accepted without any further investigation by exemption tribunals when they sit. Men found physically fit who have not reported for service may nevertheless apply for exemption on any of the prescribed grounds, including even their physical condition if dissatisfied with the Medical Board's conclusion.

Notice to join the colors

As reinforcements are required, notice to report to the nearest mobilization centre will be given from time to time to the men found liable and passed as fit for service. Disobedience of such notice will render the offender liable to punishment, but punishment for failure to report for military service, or to report subsequently for duty when called upon, will be imposed ordinarily by the civil magistrates; offenders, however, will remain liable for the performance of their military duties notwithstanding any civil punishment which may be imposed and will be liable to military punishment in cases in which civil proceedings are not taken.

Watch for the Proclamation

Notice of the day appointed for the making of a claim for exemption or for report for military service will be published as widely as possible, but, as no personal notice can be given until the individuals called out have so reported themselves or claimed exemption, men possibly concerned are warned to inform themselves with regard to the day fixed, since neglect may involve the loss by them of important privileges and rights.

CHAS. J. DOHERTY,
Minister of Justice.

130

Passing to the subject of war aims the former premier declared: "We are fighting for two aims, one immediate, the other ulterior. The first is not the restoration of the status quo, not a revival of what formerly was called the balance of power, but the substitution for the one and the other of an international system under which both large and small states can be assured of a stable foundation and independent development."

In opening his address, Mr. Asquith said it would be a calamity on the nation to suggest that its spirit required to be aroused or sustained by any fresh justification of the righteousness of the cause for which it was fighting. The attainment of peace at the present moment, he said, is the supreme interest of mankind; it is worth any sacrifice—except the sacrifice of things which made peace worth having and which ensured its stability by basing it on the solid rock of right internationally recognized and guaranteed.

Peace in this sense could not be found in a cessation of active hostilities followed by a process of territorial bargaining to be embodied ultimately in paper protocols and pacts, and left there at the mercy of a chapter of accidents, which had wisely been called "the hole of fools."

Like His Dad.

A story is told of two Irish farmers who had not seen each other for a long time, and who met at a fair. They had a lot of things to tell each other.

"Shure, it's married Oi am," said Murphy.

"You don't tell me so," said Moran.

"Eah' yes," said Murphy, "and Oi've got a foine healthy boy, which the neighbors say it is, the very pitur'ome."

Moran looked for a moment at Murphy, whom he did not consider to be remarkable for his good looks, and then he said:

"Ah, well, what's the harm so long as the child's healthy."

Notice to Contractors

Tenders will be received at the office of the Town Clerk, Woodstock, N. B., until two o'clock August 28th, 1917, for the following improvements to the Water System.

Mechanical Gravity Filter Plan.

Additions and alterations to Pumping Station, New Boiler, Steam Turbine driven centrifugal pumps gasoline engine driven centrifugal pump, and sundry necessary appurtenances.

Plans and specification can be obtained from J. C. Hartley, Town Clerk, Woodstock, N. B., or K. S. and W. S. Lea, 809 New Birks Bldg., Montreal, or A. K. Grimmer St. Andrews, N. B.

The Town of Woodstock reserves the right to reject any or all should they deem it in their own interest to do so, and the lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

(Sgd) J. C. Hartley,
Town Clerk,

Aug. 10th 1917,
Woodstock, N. B.

House For Sale

Large House 16 rooms with woodshed and barn situate on Broadway near Valley Railway Station. Land freehold, one and one half extra lots adjacent suitable for gardening.

ROBERT L. SIMMS
SOLICITOR
Sentinel Building King Street
Woodstock, N. B.

Plain Speech From Mr. Asquith

Germany Called on for Statement of Her Intentions To Belgium And France

Why the World is at War With Germany — Caustic Comment on Teutons' Conduct.

London, Sept. 27.—Although former Premier Asquith is in retirement from nominal leadership in Great Britain's policies, his strength and commanding position as spokesman for the nation has not diminished, but rather increased during his retirement.

His plain question to Germany in the House of Commons, calling on her to say what she proposed to do about Belgium, has been regarded as one of the most important notes in the diplomatic questions which the European governments are addressing to each other, not directly, but through recognized chan-

nels of speech-making to their own people and which have inspired press statements that are really intended for their adversaries. Hence, there was the greatest interest in his speech last night at a meeting held under the auspices of the War Committee at Leeds, where he addressed nearly 4,000 persons and was received with enthusiasm.

Mr. Asquith reiterated his demand for a plain and simple answer from Ger-

many as to her intentions toward Belgium and whether she was willing to restore Alsace-Lorraine, and declared that a definite answer to these questions was worth a column of pious platitudes and unctuous generalities such as were contained in the German reply to the Pope. He declared that the Allies were fighting against war and he looked for war to a world confederation of peoples based on justice and liberty and re-

cognized arbitration as the natural solvent of international disputes.

"Is there any reason to think that Germany has learned the lesson of the inevitable consequences of international spoliation?" asked Mr. Asquith. "Is there in the Chancellor's despatch or in any recent authoritative declaration of the German government any indication that it is prepared not only not to repeat the crime of 1871, but to take any practical steps which alone can open the road to a real and lasting peace? Is Germany ready to restore what she then took from France? Is she ready to give Belgium complete independence, political and economic, without fetters or reservations, and with as complete an indemnity as any merely material compensation can provide for the devastation of her territory, the sufferings of her people? A definite reply to these questions would be worth a whole column of pious platitudes."

Alluding to the necessity of destroying Prussian militarism, Mr. Asquith referred to the American revelations of the German machinations in Bucharest as fresh proof of the brutality and callousness with which Germany has waged war, and said that nothing had aroused more world wide surprise and consternation than the fact that the German nation applauded with fervor the most barbarous transgressions of the German government.

ASSAM Teas for Economy

Assam teas are the strongest and richest grown. It is of these teas that Red Rose Tea chiefly consists. That is why it yields the very large number of 250 cups to the pound—at the cost of about a cent for five cups, and every cup rich, strong, delicious tea.

Kept Good by
the Sealed
Package



643