

causes asking for assistance are legion. The good causes are very many and very needy.

Here is one, the Reading Camp Association, whose sixteenth annual report tells of zeal, intelligence, and unswerving devotion, on the part of graduates and undergraduates of Canadian universities and colleges, who give services that could not be paid for, and personality that could not be bought, to the "good cause" of teaching foreign workmen, Russians, Poles, Italians, Swedes, and others, the language, the laws, the customs, and the ideals of life, which will help them to become good Canadian citizens. All this is being carried on by these trained and devoted camp teachers, in the free classes held in the evenings and on wet days in the lumber camps.

Such work, in the hands of such workers, in such places, and under such conditions, is not duplicated anywhere, and without it the coming of those foreigners would be a very serious danger to Canadian morals, and a very fruitful source of damage to Canadian citizenship.

For more than a dozen years The Globe has been following the work of this Reading Camp Association, and the war has neither narrowed the scope of the work nor reduced its need of assistance.

PUT THE MILITIA ACT IN FORCE.

General Hughes has a perfect right, as a private member of Parliament, to ask the House of Commons to debate the question whether legislative steps should be taken "to raise troops for compulsory overseas service." What Canada needs just now, more than she needs anything else, is that the force of public opinion should constrain the men in office to do something, and do it at once. Sir Sam Hughes has chosen to force a discussion of the expediency of compulsory overseas service; he might have selected as a topic what may be called, in the language of the economists, the "marshalling of industry," for the purpose of putting workers where they can do their best work for the whole country. It should have been done long ago, to the great advantage of the Dominion, the Empire, and humanity.

It has become imperatively necessary that the Militia Act should be put in force with the least avoidable delay. This would put new life into the whole military system of the Dominion. Under our Federal system every citizen owes allegiance to the King of the "British Dominions beyond the seas," and this without regard to Provincial boundaries, or religious denominationalism, or racial affiliations and history. From whatever angle the present situation may be viewed, it demands with intensifying insistence the enforcement of the only statute that bids fair to promote solidarity of the whole population of Canada, viewed as individual citizens of one great Dominion. There is good ground to hope that, once in training, they would become eager to go to the front as regularly enlisted and competent soldiers of the King.

SIR HENRY DRAYTON.

Sir Henry Drayton's address on the railway question, at a special meeting of the Canadian Club to-day, will have unusual timeliness and interest. As Chairman of the Dominion Railway Commission, Sir Henry is a national figure, and has been brought lately into special prominence as the only Canadian member of the Railway Inquiry Commission, and as joint author of the majority report. Even those who dissent from the conclusions of Sir Henry and his colleague, Mr. Acworth, or believe, with The Globe, that complete nationalization of railways is the only permanent solution, must give them credit for candor, courage, and public spirit. Their report bears every evidence of painstaking inquiry and independent judgment. It is free from suspicion of corporation influence, or of deference to the exigencies of party politics. The document will enhance Sir Henry Drayton's reputation as a great public servant.

Parliament should arrange for the widespread distribution of both the majority and minority reports. They are combined in a blue book, which should be on sale in every bookstore in the country. They are eminently readable, and for popular purposes have the merit of brevity. A mass of information has been skillfully digested, and the lucidity of its presentation is worthy of all praise. Every Canadian should read the reports as a preparation for intelligent discussion of the most important economic question before the country.

FOREIGNERS IN THE LUMBER CAMPS.

It was Joseph Howe, the great statesman of Nova Scotia, who once said: "The time will come in Canada when the question you will ask people is, not What party do you belong to? but What good cause have you assisted?"

That time has already come in Canada. The