

...reascend control and a wider  
kindling of division and strife.

4. A fourth feature of that document is its attempt to reassure the unwilling by telling them that even if they should be driven out of their Church and into a new one against their will, they would find no change. That fiction is a specially unworthy one in that it is so patent an untruth. No congregation can be part of a Church without coming under its government and laws.

We would be exchanging a Church, broad and liberal, yet with Standards of Scripture truth to which it is pledged, for a sect which has thrown down all safeguards of Truth, by deliberately dropping out of the Basis of Union the one question which would pledge ministers to the System of Truth in that Basis. Ministers of that new sect would be pledged to no System of Truth, not even that of its own so-called Basis.

Every congregation, from least to greatest, would at once come under the control of the Settlement Committee. No matter when a congregation might become vacant, it could only call a minister at one time in the year, at the annual meeting of the Settlement Committee, and if that Call should fail, or the Settlement Committee decline to grant it, the congregation would have to wait another year, and take such supply for the year as the Settlement Committee might choose to send.

That Settlement Committee would be a combination of wire pulling and despotism, to which the liberties and rights of the people would be sacrificed. We would be exchanging one of the freest Churches in the world for a system of ecclesiastical bondage.

If Germany were to win this war and the British Empire were merged into one world-dominant power, most of our people would eat and sleep, work and rest, buy and sell as before, and, according to Germany's claim, the imposition of her "kultur" would be for our good. But men and women of the British Empire, while desiring world-wide brotherhood, prefer to be Britons still, with all that the name implies.

In like manner the men and women of the Presbyterian Church, while living and working in unity and harmony with all true Christians will not surrender their Church which they love, for an ecclesiastical autocracy which is being thrust upon them, the spirit of which is even now manifest in its disregard of understandings and assurances, and in the insult which ecclesiasticism has offered to the membership of the Church, in asking for a second vote because of the "extent of the minority" in the first vote, and then completely ignoring their largely increased opposition in that vote.

E. SCOTT.

Montreal, 10th October, 1916.

### THE NATIONAL REGISTRATION.

The Canadian Government has now definitely launched its scheme for the registration of the adult male population of the Dominion. The country has been divided into eleven districts, each in charge of a director of National Service, who will be responsible to the Director-General at Ottawa. The duties of the directors are "to take expedient measures to have all available labor utilized to the greatest advantage, for the purpose of maintaining and carrying on important industries, and of affording to the greatest possible number of men the opportunity of military service, and, with this in view, to make an estimate of such available labor."

To carry this programme out the directors are to arrange for the employment of women, decide whether men can best serve the State by enlisting or by carrying on their ordinary occupation; and, finally, to assist recruiting agents by supplying information. The directors are not themselves charged with any duty of recruiting, and, so far as announced, there is to be no compulsion even for those who are classified as best suited for enlistment. The directors are simply to gather statistics as to the number of men of military age, classify them according to the kind of service where they are most needed, whether military, industrial, or agricultural, and then hand the information over, through the Government, to the recruiting officials.

There will be, we are convinced, general approval of this new move on the Government's part. As it does not embody the principle of compulsion, even those who still stand out for the voluntary system will not have much criticism to make. So far from being premature, the majority of people will think that some such plan has been overdue now for some months. A national stock-taking of resources in manhood would certainly seem to furnish a necessary basis for intelligent effort at recruiting. And such a stock-taking will not only help to give order and system and success to recruiting plans and me-

...sals, but will also furnish a mass of information which should be very valuable after the war is over and the country tackles the great task of reabsorbing into industrial life its citizen soldiery.

But why should these registration proposals stop with an enumeration and classification of our manhood resources? Men are needed in industry and in military service, but are not munitions almost as vital to the success of the war as are men? If there are men who are working at tasks not essential to national well-being and so could be spared for military service, is it not just as likely that there are factories turning out products which do not add greatly to the economic strength of the nation? The production and use of luxuries have been seriously curtailed in Great Britain, but there has been no hint of any such action in Canada. Yet is it not possible that, from the standpoint of the successful prosecution of the war, much labor and much material both have been wasted in this connection? It is undoubtedly true that our industrial resources have only been very partially utilized up to the present for war purposes, and yet the report is that our production of munitions is actually on the decrease. As things now stand a man can use his factory for making shells or for making chewing gum, just as he pleases. But it certainly seems a reasonable proposition that if there is to be a registration of men, so should there be a registration of factories and a classification of them, according to whether they are doing war work, or work ministering to the vital needs of the community, or work that is producing things unnecessary for home consumption at such a time of stress and crisis.

There is no single argument, as it would seem to us, which would support the labor registration that could not be used with equal force as an argument for factory registration. The officials in charge of this new plan of the Government are called Directors of National Service. That title is a misnomer unless the plan is to utilize the chief factors in the national life. Common sense and efficiency demand that an inventory be made of industrial resources. This is everybody's war, and everybody should bear some share of the responsibility. There are shirkers among the workers, and there are shirkers among the employers of labor, and one kind of shirker isn't surely any better than another kind. Certainly the nation has the right to claim the services of all its citizens, whether in wealth, or in life. And if either moral suasion or compulsion are resorted to these should be applied to men who have at their back a great industrial enterprise just as well as to those who have only their naked lives to give.

And to round out any scheme of this kind should not the Government also order an inventory made of the country's wealth for purposes of taxation? Men and munitions are necessary for the waging of war, and money is necessary to pay the bills. An inventory of the wealth of the country seems to be called for just as logically as the other inventories named, so that those who can may be asked to pay, just as it is proposed that those who can shall work or fight. That is a square and altogether reasonable proposition.

There are some men making altogether too much money in Canada to-day. Surely there should be no new millionaires made in war time. That would be simply capitalizing the nation's dire necessities. One Hamilton man is reported a few months ago to have handed back to the Government three-quarters of a million dollars made in profits on war contracts. Hundreds of others, presumably, are making just as exorbitant profits as did that public-spirited individual, but they all with one accord have refused to follow the example thus set. The Government has no recent data as to the incomes of its citizens. Let these be obtained, that they may be made the basis for a more equitable sharing of the financial burdens of the war.

The Government's proposals are excellent as far as they go. They should be extended to include an inventory and classification of factories and incomes. Men, munitions and money are the three great war needs. Let Canada find out how much she has of each as a basis for intelligent and just action.

The special train service for the benefit of Arnprior, Braeside and Sand Point men employed in Renfrew, which was to have been inaugurated by the C. P. R. last week did not go into effect. The plan where these men are chiefly employed is about to close down temporarily, leaving no occasion for any special train service until some time in the future.

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