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GEORGE the FIFTH, by the
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To all to whom these presents shall come, or wh
concern—GREETING:

A Proclamation calling out the men comprised in Class
Military Service Act, 1917.

J. H. Stewart
The Deputy Minister of Justice,
Canada

WHEREAS it is provided by our Militia Act of Canada, Revised Statutes of Canada, 1906, chapter 41, Section 69, that our Governor-General of Canada in Council may place our Militia of Canada, or any part thereof, on active service anywhere in Canada, and also beyond Canada for the defence thereof, at any time when it appears advisable so to do by reason of emergency;

And Whereas that part of our militia of Canada known as the Canadian Expeditionary Force is now engaged in active service overseas for the defence and security of Canada, the preservation of our Empire and of human liberty; and it is necessary owing to the emergencies of the war to provide reinforcements for our said Expeditionary Force in addition to those whose inclination or circumstances have permitted them to volunteer;

And Whereas by reason of the large number of men who have already left agricultural and industrial pursuits in our Dominion of Canada in order to join our Expeditionary Force as volunteers, and by reason of the necessity of maintaining under these conditions the productiveness or output of agriculture and industry in our said Dominion, we have determined by and with the advice and consent of our Senate and House of Commons of Canada that it is expedient to secure the men so required, not by ballot as provided by our said Militia Act, but by selective draft; such reinforcement, under the provisions of the Military Service Act, 1917, hereinafter referred to, not to exceed one hundred thousand men;

And Whereas it is accordingly enacted in and by the provision of the Act of the Parliament of Canada, holden in the 7th and 8th years of our reign, and known as the Military Service Act, 1917, that every one of our male subjects who comes within one of the classes described and intended by the said Act shall be liable to be called out on active service in our Canadian Expeditionary Force for the defence of Canada, either within or beyond Canada; and that his service shall be for the duration of the present war and demobilization after the conclusion of the war;

And Whereas the men who are, under the provisions of the said last mentioned Act, liable to be called out are comprised in six classes, of which Class I is, by the provisions of the said Act, defined to consist of all our male subjects, ordinarily, or at any time since the 4th day of August, 1914, resident in Canada, who have attained the age of twenty years, who were born not earlier than the year 1883, and were on the 6th day of July, 1917, unmarried, or are widowers but have no child, and who are not within any of the following enumerated

EXCEPTIONS

1. Members of our regular, or reserve, or auxiliary forces, as defined by our Army Act.
2. Members of our military forces raised by the Governments of any of our other dominions or by our Government of India.
3. Men serving in our Royal Navy, or in our Royal Marines, or in our Naval Service of Canada, and members of our Canadian Expeditionary Force.
4. Men who have since August 4th, 1914, served in our Military or Naval Forces, or in those of our allies, in any theatre of actual war, and have been honourably discharged therefrom.
5. Clergy, including members of any recognized order of an exclusively religious character, and ministers of all religious denominations existing in Canada at the date of the passing of our said Military Service Act.
6. Those persons exempted from military service by Order in Council of August 13th, 1873, and by Order in Council of December 6th, 1898.

And Whereas it is moreover provided by our said Military Service Act that our Governor-General of Canada in Council may from time to time by proclamation call out on active service as aforesaid any class of men in the said Act described, and that all men within the class so called out shall, from the date of such proclamation, be deemed to be soldiers enlisted in the military service of Canada and subject to military law, save as in the said Act otherwise provided; and that the men so called out shall report and shall be placed on active service in the Canadian Expeditionary Force as may be set out in such proclamation or in regulations; but that they shall, until so placed on active service, be deemed to be on leave of absence without pay;

And Whereas it is also provided by the said Act that at any time before a date to be fixed by proclamation an application may be made, by or in respect of any man in the class to be called out, to one of our local tribunals, established in the manner provided by the said Act in the provinces in which such man ordinarily resides, for a certificate of exemption from service upon any of the following

GROUPS OF EXEMPTION

- (a) That it is expedient in the national interest that the man should, instead of being employed in military service, be engaged in other work in which he is habitually engaged;
- (b) That it is expedient in the national interest that the man should, instead of being employed in military service, be engaged in other work in which he wishes to be engaged and for which he has special qualifications;
- (c) That it is expedient in the national interest that, instead of being employed in military service, he should continue to be educated or trained for any work for which he is then being educated or trained;
- (d) That serious hardship would ensue, if the man were placed on active service, owing to his exceptional financial or business obligations or domestic position;
- (e) Ill health or infirmity;
- (f) That he conscientiously objects to the undertaking of combatant service, and is prohibited from so doing by the tenets and articles of faith in effect on the sixth day of July, 1917, of any organized religious denomination existing and well recognized in Canada at such date, and to which he in good faith belongs;

And that if any of the grounds of such application be established, a certificate of exemption shall be granted to such man.

And Whereas moreover it is enacted in the provisions of an Act of Canada holden in the 7th and 8th years of our reign, and known as the War Time Elections Act, that certain persons therefrom voting with such of their sons as on polling day are of legal age, shall be exempt from combatant military and naval service.

And Whereas it is further provided by our said Military Service Act that applications for exemption from service shall be determined by our said local tribunals, subject to appeal as in the said Act provided; and that any man, by or in respect of whom an application for exemption from service is made, shall, so long as such application or any appeal in connection therewith is pending, and during the currency of any exemption granted him, be deemed to be on leave of absence without pay;

And Whereas our Governor-General of Canada in Council has determined to call out upon active service as aforesaid the men included in Class I, as in the said Act and hereinbefore defined or described;

Now Therefore Know Ye that we do hereby call out the said Class I, comprising the men in our said Military Service Act, 1917, and hereinbefore defined or described as to the said class belonging, on active service in our Canadian Expeditionary Force for the defence of Canada, either within or beyond Canada, as we may, in the command or direction of our Military Forces, hereafter order or direct.

And we do hereby strictly command, require and enjoin that each man who is a member of the said class shall, on or before the 10th day of November, 1917, in the prescribed form and manner, report himself for military service, unless application for his exemption shall then have been made by him or by another person entitled to apply on his behalf; wherein our loving subjects, members of the said class, are especially charged not to fail since not only do their loyalty and allegiance require and impose the obligation of careful and implicit obedience to these our strict commands and injunctions, but moreover, lest our loving subjects should be ignorant of the consequences which will ensue if they fail to report within the time limited as aforesaid, we do hereby forewarn and admonish them that any one who is hereby called out, and who without reasonable excuse fails to report as aforesaid, shall thereby commit an offence, for which he shall be liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for any term not exceeding five years with hard labour, and he shall nevertheless, if so required, be compelled to serve immediately in our said Expeditionary Force.

And we do hereby proclaim and announce that for the greater convenience of our subjects, we have directed that prescribed forms, for reporting for service, and for application for exemption from service, may, at any time on or before the said 10th day of November, 1917, be obtained at any post office in our Dominion of Canada; and that reports for service and applications for exemption from service, if obtained at any of our said post offices and properly executed, shall be forwarded by our postmaster at the post office from which the same are obtained to their proper destinations as by our regulations prescribed, free of postage or any other charge.

And we do further inform and notify our loving subjects that local tribunals have been established in convenient localities throughout our Dominion of Canada for the hearing of applications for exemption from service upon any of the statutory grounds, as hereinbefore set out; that these local tribunals so established will begin to sit in the discharge of their duties on the 8th day of November, 1917; and that they will continue to sit from day to day thereafter, as may be necessary or convenient, at such times and places as shall be duly notified, until all applications for exemption from service shall have been heard and disposed of; also that men belonging to the class hereby called out who have not previously to the said 8th day of November, 1917, reported for service, or forwarded applications for exemption through any of our post offices as aforesaid, may make applications in person for exemption from service to any of our said tribunals on the 8th, 9th or 10th day of November, 1917.

And we do hereby moreover notify and inform our loving subjects who are within the class hereby called out, that if, on or before the 10th day of November, 1917, they report themselves for military service, or if, on or before that day, application for exemption from service be made by them or on their behalf, they will not be required to report for duty, or be placed upon active service as aforesaid, until a day not earlier than the 10th day of December, 1917, which will, by our registrar for the province in which they reported, or applied, be notified to them in writing by registered post at their respective addresses as given in their reports for service, or applications for exemption from service, or at such substituted addresses as they, may have respectively signified to our said registrar; and we do hereby forewarn and admonish the men belonging to the class hereby called out that if any of them shall, without just and sufficient cause, fail to report for duty at the time and place required by notice in writing so posted, or shall fail to report for duty as otherwise by law required, he shall be subject to the procedure, pains and penalties by law prescribed as against military deserters.

Of all of which our loving subjects, and all others whom these presents may concern, are hereby required to take notice, rendering strict obedience to and compliance with all these our commands, directions and requirements, and governing themselves accordingly.

In Testimony Whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of Canada to be hereunto affixed. WITNESS: Our Right Trusty and Right Entirely Beloved Cousin and Counsellor, Victor Christian William, Duke of Devonshire, Marquess of Hartington, Earl of Devonshire, Earl of Burlington, Baron Cavendish of Hardwicke, Baron Cavendish of Keigley, Knight of Our Most Noble Order of the Garter; One of Our Most Honourable Privy Council; Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George; Knight Grand Cross of Our Royal Victorian Order; Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of Our Dominion of Canada.

At Our Government House, in Our City of OTTAWA, this TWELFTH day of OCTOBER, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventeen, and in the eighth year of Our Reign.

By Command,
Thomas Mulvey
Under-Secretary of State.

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