

FIRST DRAFT IN KHAKI BY NOV. 1ST

JUDGE NAMES MEMBERS LOCAL EXEMPTION BOARDS

Announcement is made today of the first appointments to the local tribunals before whom men called under the Military Service Act will be required to present their case in the event that they desire exemption from service.

Provision has been made for three tribunals in Port Arthur, four in Fort William, and one each at other places in the district. These tribunals are to consist of two members each, one being appointed by the district senior judge and one by the government. The limits of each tribunal are yet to be defined by the government. The appointments for this district have been made by Judge O'Leary and con-

firmed as follows, the government appointees not yet being given out:

Port Arthur, 3 tribunals—
Judge McKay.

J. J. O'Connor, magistrate.
R. L. F. Strathy.

Fort William, 4 tribunals—
Judge O'Leary.

W. W. O'Brien, magistrate.
Harry Murphy, mayor.
E. A. Penniman, contractor.

Schreiber, 1 tribunal—

E. B. Hesson, manager Bank of Montreal.

Grant, on the National Transcontinental railway, 1 tribunal—

James H. Munroe, master mechanic.

THOSE WHO ARE EXEMPT

Exemption from service, under the Military Service act, may be claimed on eight separate grounds. The forms of application, which will be available at post offices throughout the Dominion in the course of a few days, make this clear. The grounds are:—

- (1) Importance of continuing employment in habitual occupation.
- (2) Importance of continuing employment as.....for which he 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.

The form is drafted much after the style of a ballot paper. The applicant for exemption is required to place a cross opposite the ground on which the claim is made. His case will then go to the local tribunal to which proof in support will be submitted.



With the Military Service Act becoming law in August 1917, conscription would commence in Canada. In September 1917, newspapers reported that the first draft would be in uniform by the end of November 1917. Both local newspapers also began detailing the process of exemptions to the Military Service Act. A number of civil tribunals were established in Port Arthur, Fort William and Schreiber to hear the cases of men wishing exemption. The Port Arthur News Chronicle also informed readers that persons exempt from service would be required to join the Canada's Home Defence forces. Two medical boards in Port Arthur and Fort William also began the process of examining potential soldiers from the Thunder Bay District.

Photograph: Canada. Dept. of National Defence/Library and Archives Canada/

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