



## Married Men's Protest

A "Single Men-First" protest meeting was held in the British Schoolroom on Tuesday night. Dr. Robinson Fletcher presided over a good attendance and said the recruiting was very unsatisfactory.

Thousands of able young men had found employment in starved trades, especially in munitions works, where the work could be learned in a fortnight, and so could be done by women or men ineligible for the Army, and so as a consequence married men who had patriotically offered to assist their country's fight were being called up earlier than necessary in order to make up the strength. It was time then the married stand out against such injustice.

He read a petition to Lord Derby which received the signatures of upwards of thirty attested married men, demanding that the pledge to married men given by the Prime Minister and his Lordship be kept in spirit as well as letter; also, that all the appeals and exemptions granted to single men in that district be reconsidered. "We do not wish to shirk our duty, only to be given justice," added the petition.

The following resolutions were carried unanimously:

- (1) That the Government carry out strictly their promise to call up first all the available single men.
- (2) The early fair thing is to amend the Military Service Act 1916, to include "all" men of military age.
- (3) The Government must make adequate provision for the financial responsibilities of the attested married man before requiring his military service on the front line.

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