

Immediately on the outbreak of war Col. Guthrie closed his office in the City of Fredericton, put up a sign, "Office closed for the duration of the war," and offered his services to the country, was accepted, and soon appeared at the front in France as a major; took his place in the fighting line, and a little later, when his commanding officer was killed, took command and held the line through fierce fighting until relieved with reinforcements. He went through several battles, was badly wounded, and finally placed on board the *Hesperian*, invalided for home, but very soon after sailing, this vessel, as you know, was torpedoed, and our gallant Colonel, though very severely wounded, was finally rescued and eventually saved, and is now recuperating in order to go back again, when opportunity offers.

I mention all this because he also is strongly in favor of some such action as is contained in the Memorial we present here to-day, and I believe an opinion from one who has gone through what he has for King and Country should have more weight than anything I could say.

Now, Sir, my home Association first started on this recruiting work at the request of your Division Headquarters' Staff. We went at it with heart and soul, irrespective of either political party or of any religious creed, and we worked hand in hand, and I am sorry to report here that after months of experience, we feel we have made a mistake in the methods used and still in force—Volunteer Recruiting. We have had success in numbers of men only, but now that we review the work and realize the situation, we fear it has not altogether been in the best interests of the country, and all concerned; we have secured too many married men, leaving dependents, and too many young men who really are needed more at home, but whose conscience has been worked on till they could not retain their social position.

So far as those who have left wives and children dependent on them, we, perhaps, at the seaboard, realize this more than other sections might, for, after we secure these men and finally see them sail from the east side of our harbor with a cheer, we turn to the west side of the harbor and see the ship drawing to the wharf and, as she does, and the gangplank thrown out, we see their comrades returning, some minus a leg, or an arm, or their eyesight gone, or even worse, some actually insane; it brings the situation home to us more forcibly, and I for one urge upon you here and now that some such action as we ask for to-day be speedily considered, that some business system be introduced so that the cause of that I just referred to may be the more quickly disposed of, and resulting conditions disappear.

I could, of course, give many more reasons for some different system of obtaining recruits, but time at our disposal is so short I hardly feel entitled to do so, and while a movement such as we suggest here to-day may not seem a popular one, in