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FAVOURS THE NEW RECRUITING MOVEMENT

HAS SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE.

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir—It is pleasing to note that our Government are getting a gait on that they have at last decided to organize two Newfoundland Regiments of one thousand men each and maintain them at full strength to the end of the war. This is certainly a move in the right direction and should have been in operation months ago, but as the old saying goes: "Better late than never." To bring these regiments up to their full numbers and to provide drafts sufficient to keep them at full fighting strength will require one thousand men within the next month and an average of twenty-five per week to the end of the war.

To accomplish this great work it is necessary that the Government should immediately get a hustle on and appoint recruiting committees in all the principal outposts, and also open up recruiting stations at convenient places all over the country and have the campaign conducted by men, broad minded and honourable, whose very personality will appeal to the best blood of the country. This is one point I would advise the Government to be very careful in, as the young men who are likely to come forward are those who love liberty, freedom and fair play, who scorn and repel oppression and coercion, who would lay down their lives in defence of liberty and freedom.

No doubt we have thousands of young men in this country with the right stuff in them to make good soldiers, but these young men must be convinced that they have a cause and a country to fight for. They must have some idea that will inspire them with enthusiasm and infuse loyalty in their hearts. They must be satisfied within their inmost soul that they live as freemen, not as slaves in their own country; that they can enjoy the sound privileges of free citizenship as the Englishmen of London, Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds or Lincolnshire, the Irishmen of Dublin, Cork, Kilkenny, Meath and Belfast; the Scotchmen of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Inverness, that they are not under the predominating influence of any particular part or section of their country men; that they are living in a country whose laws will not tolerate one section to dominate over a smaller or less numerous section; that they live under a constitution that will uphold the traditions of the Empire that will carefully guard and protect that freedom and liberty handed down to us by our forefathers, consecrated with the blood of bravest and most chivalrous men of the world, the English, Irish and Scotch.

These are the races we sprang from and it is the honour of those places we are called upon to preserve and the traditions of these countries we are called upon to uphold. You must clearly convince these young men that they are free men in a free country, that they are not to be coerced or dictated to by any party or section of the country, that they enjoy the same freedom of citizenship as their comrades of England, Ireland, Scotland, Canada, or Australia, that no man or number of men will dare dictate to them what they must wear, eat or drink, or whether they should wear long or short beard.

The men competent and capable of upholding the honour of the Empire in this, her darkest hour, are the descendants of the true-born English, Irish and Scotch, the men who gave us an Empire that the sun never sets on, with the best laws and the freest institutions in the world. The true-born English man, the worthy ascendants of Cassibelaunus stands for freedom, liberty, honour, toleration and consistency, as against coercion, oppression, inconsistency and dishonour. I am proud to say that we have in this country thousands of worthy descendants of this noble race.

The true-born Irishman, the worthy ascendants of Neill of the Hostages, Malachi, and the brave Brian Boru. This race who suffered, endured and lived down oppression and coercion for over eight hundred years, are ever ready, as the greatest fighting race in the world to sacrifice all that is dear to them in defence of the British Empire and fulfil that pledge of honour given by their chosen representatives to the democracy of England in return for their long lost liberty. These brave men in this great war has made a name for themselves on every battlefield they stand and are fighting for the freedom of Ireland and the other small nationalities against invasion, confiscation and oppression, for social, religious and political liberty.

I am also proud to find that we also have in this country thousands of worthy ascendants of this brave noble and liberty-loving race. Men that have

fought for and will fight for liberty, freedom and fair play. Men who will resent to the last drop of blood in their bodies any interference with their just liberties. As free citizens and as worthy sons of a worthy sire they will stand up for those principles so dear to the heart of every true Irishman, and before buckling on their armour in defence of the liberty and freedom of other small nationalities, they should be convinced they enjoy the true principles of free citizenship in their own country that no dominating party or section will dare impose laws contrary to the fundamental principles of their race. To be a fighting man we must have keen sight, clear vision, bright intel-

lect. If I have any knowledge of the Irish Newfoundlanders it is that he is possessed of all these qualities and that he is as ready to see an insult offered to himself as one offered to a stranger and just as ready to resent it. The Scotch Newfoundlanders although numerically weaker than their cousins, the English and Irish, are nevertheless up to that high standard of efficiency which characterizes the men of the British Isles as the vast fighting blood of the world. These men are ever ready to rally around the flag in defence of Liberty and Freedom, providing they are safeguarded from the iron heel of oppression and coercion in their own native land. No better fighting combination than English, Irish and Scotch can be found. They are loyal, patriotic and enthusiastic and are ready at all times to lay down their lives in defence of Freedom and Liberty. The iron rod of oppression never aid or never will appeal to a true Briton.

PUBLIC OPINION.
St. John's, Feb. 16, 1916.

John Redmond Saved Home Rule for Ireland And the Asquith Govt. from Defeat.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—The inner history of the political crisis in England, over the application of compulsion to the single men who failed to enroll themselves for military service under Lord Derby's scheme may never be written. It certainly will not be written until the war is over, and then probably not in full. The public has a shrewd idea that for a few days the life of the Asquith ministry hung by a hair, but it does not know that the man on whose decision it depended most of all was John Redmond, the leader of the Irish party.

Mr. Redmond has been opposed to conscription for Ireland all along, and it was a foregone conclusion that whatever system was adopted for England, Scotland and Wales, compulsion would not be applied to Ireland. A bombshell was thrown into the ministry however, when Mr. Redmond informed the Prime Minister that he would not consent to the adoption of compulsion for England unless the Home Rule Bill were made effective immediately. In that case he was ready to give a binding guarantee that the first act of the Irish parliament would be to pass a compulsory act for Ireland.

The reason for the attitude of Mr. Redmond was his distrust of several of the leading Liberal politicians and more particularly of Mr. Lloyd-George who, it is claimed, has been endeavoring all along to force Mr. Asquith out of office and step into his shoes. Mr. Lloyd-George has never been particularly keen on Home Rule, and since the war his affiliations have been rather with the Tories than with the Liberals. Mr. Redmond knew that if a general election took place, as seemed likely, on the conscription issue, and Mr. Lloyd-George came to power there was every prospect of Home Rule being lost, while he knew that he could trust Mr. Asquith to keep his promise as long as he continued in power.

Home Rule Engagement Kept.

There was a week of frenzied negotiation, at the end of which it became clear that only Mr. Asquith could carry the compulsion measure in England and that, therefore, he could not be replaced. Mr. Redmond got a promise that whatever happened the Home Rule engagement would be kept at the end of the war. It is believed that he received this guarantee not only from Mr. Asquith, but from Mr. Balfour, Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Austen Chamberlain, representing the responsible element of the Tory party. This may also account for the renewal of activity against the government by Sir Edward Carson and his associates among the irreconcilable Ulsterites.

At any rate, Mr. Redmond withdrew his uncompromising opposition to the compulsion bill, which passed its first reading by the overwhelming majority of 298. Mr. Redmond voted against it as a matter of form, and so did about fifty other Irish members, but the vote was not a party matter.

Redmond's Wisdom.

Mr. Redmond has demonstrated his wisdom in declining Mr. Asquith's invitation to join the coalition government. Although not in the government he has been in the closest touch with it throughout the war, and his influence has been very great. He has assumed the position of a faithful ally and he has given every assistance in his power to recruiting in Ireland, which, in spite of the slanders of Sir Edward Carson and his friends, has really been very good. Under no circumstances could Ireland be expected to produce the same proportion of recruits as the rest of the United Kingdom, for emigration has taken a heavy toll of her young men. In addition to that the great majority of the Irish agriculturists are peasant pro-

pretors, working their own land, and are, therefore, unable to leave their farms in the way that agricultural laborers in England can leave their employment. They are also engaged in producing food for the whole kingdom, and are much more useful behind the plough than they would be in the trenches.

Better Than Wales.

In spite of all this recruiting in Ireland has been much better than in Wales, which is an industrial country, and, therefore, able to supply a much larger proportion of recruits. Great play has been made with the activities of the Sinn Féiners and the other small groups of extremists who have done their best to hamper recruiting, but no one who knows anything of conditions and opinion in Ireland takes them seriously. Ireland as a whole is as keen on beating Germany as any part of the kingdom and her keenness has been increased by the German outrages in Belgium, whose connection with Ireland has always been very close, and particularly by the murder and persecution of Belgian priests and nuns. The Irish nuns from Ypres and other convents in Belgium have been among the most effective recruiting agents in Ireland, and the Roman Catholic clergy and hierarchy have done splendid work in seconding Mr. Redmond's efforts.

WILL NOT EXCLUDE
NATIONALIST MEMBER

QUEBEC, Feb. 16.—After considering the case of Col. Lavergne and interviewing him the directors of the Garrison Club have now decided not to exclude him from the club for his speech in the Legislature contending that Canada should not help England by sending troops to Europe to fight.

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