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St. John's, N.F.,  
March 15th, 1914.

Mr. Stebaurman.

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**President Coaker Delivers Eloquent Patriotic Address At Big Rally In British Hall**

Ladies and Gentlemen.—I would much sooner some other public man had been asked to take my part here to-night, but, having been asked, I felt it my duty to consent, and if my humble efforts contribute in the smallest degree to the advancement of the cause which these meetings are intended to serve, I shall be thankful. Public men must shoulder their responsibilities cheerfully or give place to men who can and will do so. Often this duty is performed under circumstances and in a manner which proves that, after all, a country or a nation is but one large family. Here you find me standing side by side with my untrusting opponent, the Premier, who but one year ago bent all his energies to prevent my friends and myself from turning him out of the most unthankful position obtainable in the country. We rejoice to-day to find him where we laboured to be, and I can assure you that very few men in the country to-day envy him his exalted position and the pressing duties which such a position claims from its possessor.

**SACRED AS LIFE**

We are here on this platform to-night to espouse a cause which every Britisher holds as sacred as his life, a cause about which there can be no difference of opinion. We may differ as to the methods employed to serve most effectively, but as to the cause itself, no sane man can do aught but strive manfully to defend it, even to the giving up of that which man most dearly prizes—his existence.

My Rt. Hon. friend, and most sturdy political opponent will, I know, agree with me when I say that when danger threatens the dear old British flag, every public man should stand for State and none for Self. My friend has stood on this platform on several occasions and appealed to his friends for support, but, proud as he often was over his exertions on such occasions, I feel sure he never felt prouder than he does to-night, espousing the cause of the most glorious and freest Empire known to man. May we both, in after years, be able to look back to this meeting to-night as an occasion in our lives which proved a pleasure and an inspiration and which prompted us both to devote more earnestly and sincerely to the uplifting of our country those talents which Providence has been pleased to bestow upon us.

**DUTIES OF PUBLIC MEN**

The duties of public men are often under-estimated and misunderstood. It is a noble ambition in any man to aim for high positions of public trust and responsibility. It is far better to dare mighty things and to win mighty triumphs, even though they be checked with failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight which knows neither victory nor defeat.

When a country sees a public man showing by his actions that his work in her behalf is a burdensome duty and not a reward to be abused for personal profit and gain, then that country may consider herself blessed. I firmly believe that a public man who performs his duty in the interest of his country to the best of his ability is the greatest blessing which can befall that country.

Every sincere public man ought to be inspired and greatly strengthened by the grand example set by that noble statesman who ruled Britain so long, who was the instructor and leader of the grand men now in charge of the Government of Britain.

**LABORED UNSELFISHLY**

I refer to Mr. Gladstone, the "Grand Old Man" of the last century. His knowledge was unsurpassed in his day and the world is still looking for some man to fill the gap which he left. His talents were many, and he devoted them all to the uplifting of humanity and the advancement of our grand Empire. He did not live for Self. In his days of activity, there was no man living who possessed so great an influence, and no man has ever lived who has utilized his influence so beneficially in the uplifting of humanity.

Had Mr. Gladstone used his great ability and consequent influence to enrich himself and amass wealth as the Rockefeller, the Morgans, the Rothschilds, and other talented men have done, he might have become as rich as Rockefeller, or Morgan, or Rothschild, for he possessed greater abilities than any of these, and a year after his death the world would have forgotten that he ever lived.

But our grand Empire builder, our Ideal Statesman, will live as long as

the English language is spoken and history is read, while few will remember that a Morgan, a Rothschild or a Rockefeller ever lived, a year after their forms have disappeared from earthly view.

**MISAPPREHENSION CORRECTED**

My duty is responsible for my presence here to-night and whatever I may speak will be the sincere utterance of one who loves the British flag, its grand history, its traditions, and our grand Empire as a true Briton should. Many a time have I been assailed as unpatriotic and disloyal, because I have been misunderstood. My words were not intended to convey meanings applied to them. Somehow, it is always easier to misunderstand than to catch the true intent and meaning of a statement.

Some of my fellow-citizens were greatly offended because of some remark attributed to me which appeared in the "Union" paper, in reference to the loss of the three cruisers in the North Sea through being torpedoed by German submarines. I am a busy man. I have many pressing duties to attend to daily and I sometimes write editorial articles for our paper. I have but little time to give such duties. I can give but a few minutes in the early morning to this work. I write a paragraph. It explains my feelings. It may be that I should make sure that those who read should clearly understand my meaning and that I should more fully explain my meaning when writing the article, but whilst, in the few moments at my disposal, I find time to write a sentence, I cannot find time to write an explanation of a dozen more lines.

I can sincerely say that no Briton grieved more over the loss of those three cruisers than I did. I am often thought to be possessed by a spirit of dissatisfaction, but a close observer would soon discover that this characteristic might be better defined as a "spirit of being forever unsatisfied."

**BRITAIN'S FIGHT FOR RIGHT**

Britain is fighting for Right and her cause will surely prevail. There can be no such thing as Britain being beaten in this awful war. She has not always lived up to the high ideals of a perfect nation, but her ideals have not been surpassed by any nation under heaven. She may possess some vices, but when we compare them with her virtues, they sink into insignificance.

Britain's statesmen cannot be equalled anywhere in the world. The purity of British politics and of her public expenditure are admitted by all reasonable men to greatly surpass the standards of any country or nation under the sun. The men now administering the Government of Britain are the equals of any of the race has produced.

This awful war period could not have sought an abler Government leader than Mr. Asquith. The unparalleled financial conditions confronting Britain and the whole world during the last four months have caused so much interest and anxiety as the fighting at the front, but, thank God, the war found a man in charge of Britain's finances whose equal cannot be found in the Empire. He has astonished and amazed the moneyed world and the Finance Ministers of every nation by the astounding burdens which he has undertaken to bear for Empire, for Nation, and for British citizens. I consider him to be a man sent by Providence to bring Britain through this Armageddon.

**HEAVEN-SENT STATESMAN**

God bless Mr. Lloyd-George! May Heaven preserve his health and England never cease to appreciate his great abilities. We are proud of him, and every true Britisher should lift his eyes to Heaven daily and ask that power from on high may be supplied him in the future as it has been supplied in the trying days of the past four months.

Mr. Churchill and Admiral Fisher are the equals of the greatest in our Empire who could be trusted with their high offices. May Admiral Fisher's plans to strip the Seven Seas of German warships be consummated. May the German navy be completely destroyed or captured, ere Britain sheathe her sword in this Armageddon of wars. May Admiral Fisher at the Admiralty and Lord Kitchener at the War Office so direct operations as to cause everyone of us once more to religiously repeat the words of the immortal Shakespeare:—

"This England never did and never shall Lie at the foot of a proud conqueror."

How can Britain emerge from this war anything but triumphant? She has the ships, she has the money, she has great statesmen in charge of her affairs, and surely the Empire will find the men! Who can doubt that although our Navy has met with some losses, God's strong arm is with it? Has not the boasted might of the German navy been hiding in harbours under the shelter of impregnable fortresses, the approaches to which have been strewn with deadly explosive machines which are almost as numerous as the women and children whom their soldiers have murdered in the homes of the absent, brave and valiant Belgians. How can we have any doubt about the final outcome when German admirals cannot gather enough pluck to challenge the steel walls which protect the British shores?

For four months the flower of Germany's manhood has endeavoured to crush the Allied Armies in France and Belgium, but there has been no tatter, no wavering, no mistake, no blunder, no want of courage and no lack of bravery and endurance on the part of our noble brothers or their French and Belgian comrades. The worst is over and our army has not lost any of its past glory nor yielded to the foe.

**WARRIORS BOLD**

Our soldiers are doing as their fathers did in days of yore. They are striving for one object—Duty, and a soldier's duty is the most trying work that a man can undertake. He is indeed the noblest of men, for he undertakes voluntarily to lay down his life, if need be, in order that others may be free and may live to enjoy the happiness secured at the cost of his life. There is but one reward which a true soldier values as a compensation for what he endures on behalf of his nation, and that is the Victoria Cross—the emblem of heroic action which is the envy of the bravest men in the British Army and Navy and which the poet so beautifully portrays in the following lines:—

"O pure as the spirit that set me there  
Must the heart of the hero be  
Who would win my crown on the furious  
Field or the plunging decks of sea,  
Mine is the light that the sailor sees  
When the flames from the turret flash,  
Mine is the prize that their fingers  
Clutch as they reel at the gates of death,  
And I am the priest of the stricken  
Field who greets their dying breath."

**LOYAL SONS OF TERRA NOVA**

I believe that the people of Newfoundland are just as brave and loyal as any in the Empire. I do not believe that the slowness of the young men in enlisting is the result of the want of knowledge as the causes of the war, or indifference as to the outcome of the war. I am fully convinced that most outport people are fully acquainted with all the circumstances in connection with the war. Those to whom I have spoken are fully informed and take a very close interest in following the war news from day to day. I have seen numbers about the telegraph stations in the outports waiting for the daily report and intelligently discussing all the details.

I am not one of those who think that the outport people want to be instructed in respect to the war situation, or want to be told what their duty is to King and Country.

There are many reasons for the apparent slowness in responding to the appeal for recruits, but, in my opinion, the principal one is that the young men and older men believe that there is no need at present for their services. They feel sure that the Allies will beat the Germans. They feel sure that the German fleet will be sunk or captured by the British fleet.

**FEELING OF RESIGNATION**

There is a feeling of resignation amongst the people, which, if put into words would read, "Well, I am a true subject of the King. I love the Flag. I am ready to fight and to die for the Empire, but there are millions of men in the field and millions more under training for the front, who will not get there until the Spring.

"The Germans have done their best and placed all their men in the field and they cannot make the Allied Armies budge. Not one battle on the land has been lost by the Allied Armies in France or Belgium and only one battle has been lost by the Russians. If the Allies were beaten in France or Germany and I saw a fear

of Britain losing, I would offer right away. Or, if the German fleet beat the British in a square battle and Britain required a few thousand men to man new ships, I would offer right away."

This, in my opinion, is the present feeling of the people of the outports, and is one of the chief causes of the slowness in response to the appeal for recruits. As to meetings, the most effective speaker would be one who could say—

"Well, boys, I am asking you to follow me. I am ready to give my life for the maintenance of the Flag of Old England, and I believe many of you are as brave and as ready to fight as I am, and will respond to the call of your King and Country, and we shall stand side by side—we who are young and strong—and fight as our fathers of old fought, and if we come back we shall always be proud of our action.

"Our neighbours will always respect and esteem us as Men, and if we die, we will die the noblest of deaths, fighting for our King, our Country, and for the safety and freedom of our dear ones at home. We shall follow in the footsteps of thousands of brave men who laid down their lives in days gone by that we in our generation might be free. Now our turn has come. Duty's stern demand calls upon us to shoulder our responsibilities and hand down to our brothers and countrymen, unimpaired, that great heritage which has been handed down to us by our fathers.

"There is but once to die, and who can die more nobly, more manly and bravely, and demand a greater value for his life, than he who responds to his Country's call to defend the flag and battle against the enemies of Right?"

**WOULD BE EFFECTIVE**

I feel sure that if we had speakers appearing on outport platforms who could appeal to the young men in the words which I have outlined, the response would be a surprise to all concerned. If men, such as you, Mr. Chairman, who have two sons in training for the front, could appeal, such an appeal, coming from a man who has already made a great sacrifice, would surely reach the young men in the outports.

What is wanted is to show that here is need of help at this time, and I ask all the young men present, or those who may chance to read my words, to realize that the country has pledged its word to the King's Imperial Government to provide One Thousand Naval Reservists and that Three hundred of the one thousand are still needed.

The Colony's honour has been seen pledged and the offer of one thousand naval reservists must be fulfilled. I appeal to the young fishermen from the age of 18 to 35, who are in good health, to come forward at once and enable Newfoundland to carry out her pledge to Britain. Three hundred young men should respond within a week.

**FAITH IN OUR FISHERS**

I will not believe that the young fishermen, who are just the chaps for serving on warships, will be any longer indifferent to the appeal of her country on behalf of the Motherland in her hour of need. I wish that I were younger or that I could be released from my pressing responsibilities, for nothing would delight me more than to stand on the deck of one of those great wonders of the age. I know that our young men love the sea and would be at home on board of one of those mighty ships. Who amongst us has not been thrilled by the grand words of the poet who said:—

"O for a soft and gentle wind!"  
I heard a fair one cry;  
But give to me the snoring breeze  
And white waves heaving high,  
And white waves heaving high, my lads.

The good ship tight and free—  
The world of waters is our home,  
And merry men are we.

There's tempest in yon horned moon,  
And lightning in yon cloud;  
But Hark! the music, mariners!  
The wind is piping loud,  
The wind is piping loud, my boys,  
The lightning flashes free—  
While the hallowed oak our palace is,  
Our heritage the Sea."

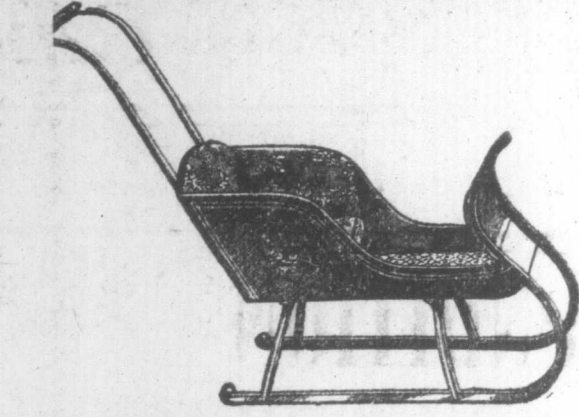
What fisher lad would not feel his blood warm at the utterance of such danger-smelling words. Surely, sons of Old Devon, and of Wexford, and of Waterford sires who first saw light of day in Terra Nova, who have drunk of the health-giving draughts which sweep over the tumultuous seas and beat against our rocky, ragged shores, will be true to the best traditions of their fathers, and never look on sullenly when England's sides of steel lie idle, awaiting tars to drive England's foes from the seas.

**TERRA NOVA'S PRAYER**

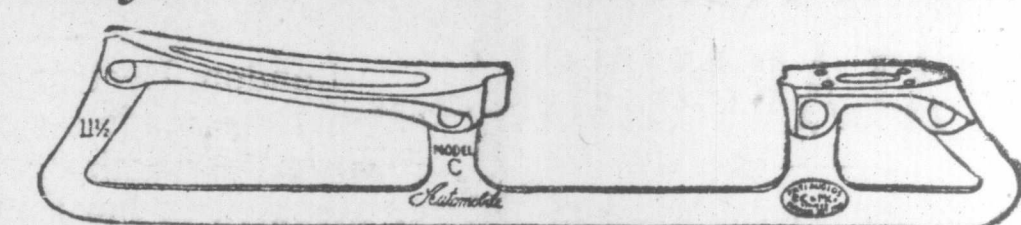
Surely, the Viking's blood, so strong within us, will be stirred and will stimulate brain and sinew to strike the blow that will maintain our liberty and freedom for a thousand years.

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(Continued on page 3.)