

Patriotic Meeting Casino Theatre Packed.

Presentation of War Medals. His Excellency the Governor, Minister of Militia, Prime Minister and Lieut. L. C. Murphy, Addressed Audience. Fresh Recruiting Campaign Will be Undertaken at Once.



The initial meeting of the recruiting campaign opened last night and was ushered in by a record attendance. The meeting was presided over by His Excellency the Governor, who was accompanied by Lieut.-Col. Knox-Niven and Captain Campbell, A.D.C. At 8 o'clock the C. L. B. band struck up that popular well-known air "Over There."

Mr. J. R. Bennett, Minister of Militia, who was the first speaker, said before asking His Excellency to take the chair he would like to state the object of the meeting and why it was held. His Excellency the Governor had received from the Governor General of Canada a Military Cross to be presented to Lieut. Jack Turner for valor in the field. It was the first time a Canadian decoration had been presented in St. John's or in Newfoundland. At the same time six other decorations had been sent but unfortunately three of these were not present to receive them as they were sent to the outposts and therefore were unable to participate in the ceremony. Three others were present, however, to receive those medals so nobly won in battle. At this meeting another feature would be the presenting for the first time of moving pictures of our boys in France, pictures of the Regiment on the firing line and returning to billets, pictures of the Regiment in Scotland and Forestry Companies. The pictures give an idea how matters relative to our men are conducted on the other side. Mr. Bennett said that His Excellency would also give an address. Since he became Governor he had taken a deep interest in all matters pertaining to the Royal Nfld. Regiment and had been continually enquiring after their welfare. He will express his views on matters of vital interest. Dr. Lloyd will also speak. Then we have a splendid type of Newfoundlander, Lieut. Leo Murphy, the official eyewitness of the Regiment in France, who as such is in a better position to give a description regarding conditions in France. He hoped the meeting might have good effect, not alone in St. John's but throughout the entire Dominion. There is one question which is brought before us. What is to be the future of the Nfld. Regiment? And I would say the future of the Regiment depends upon the people of Newfoundland. All the people of the country must decide that question. Last fall I was charged as Minister of Militia to see what could be done to get more recruits. Up to last spring and fall very few recruits were obtained and it looked as if something different had to be done or withdraw the Regiment from service. The Government got together and drew an outline and set as its objective 500 men for the regiment,

not to speak of the Forestry. The officers and Non-Coms of the Regiment in St. John's got down to work, held public meetings and sent recruiting parties around the country, yet while we did not obtain our objective, we secured 70 p.c. and this could not be written a failure. Up to the end of the year there passed 342 for the Regiment and 84 for the Forestry. In January 61 for the Regiment and 18 for the Forestry. While we did not obtain 500 we got 393 for the Regiment and 100 for the Forestry, a total of 493. Since January nothing has been done, and during mid-winter nothing could be done. We had hoped to start a new campaign at Easter, but circumstances over which we had no control prevented us. The recent Florizel disaster with its loss of life, and consequent funerals every day coupled with weather conditions prevented sending men out. We hope the present campaign of which this is the initial meeting will have the desired effect. The position of the Regiment at present is one of great concern. The Regiment up to the middle of March was nearly at full strength, over 900 being in France. The great trouble is there are no reserves. There are 900 in France which represent our entire force. What is going to happen if the Regiment meets with heavy reverses? Is it any one's desire that the Regiment be withdrawn. (Cries of No!) Continuing, Mr. Bennett said, I believe the country wishes to see that the Regiment be kept there. He was happy to announce that he had come to the conclusion, after reviewing the present situation, that they have not been in the great offensive. I have wired to know where they have been fighting and hope to be able to have it made known in the press to-morrow for the benefit of those who have relatives in the Regiment. The Government has requested me to carry on another similar recruiting campaign this year, and I hope our efforts will be successful. Our efforts though will be in vain if public opinion does not back us. It is up to us to make young men and their fathers and mothers realize the need. We want to get influential help; we want the members of the House of Assembly, the members of the Legislative Council; the churches, clergymen, school teachers, business men, and every man who loves his country to be a recruiting agent. This country is in receipt of a message calling for more men. We can conscript ourselves, without legal conscription, and still maintain the name and glorious reputation of the Royal Nfld. Regiment. I trust the interest in this meeting will be displayed in the campaign. He then asked His Excellency to take the chair.

His Excellency said, I am rather glad to have been asked to make an address, as one would be tempted to make a speech on such a matter as this. First I am going to say a few words to the press. There have been remarks made in the press that we as a government have neglected the country, that we have forgotten our duty. Don't say we did not rise to the occasion until a certain message came from the Secretary of State. I would not be worthy of the high commission which I hold if I did not do all in my power to strengthen the Royal Nfld. Regiment with you. When I came here and found that compulsory service was not the measure for Newfoundland, I began to consider in what way the shall an appeal be made to Newfoundland? He decided to make an appeal along religious lines. He had drawn up an appeal which had the approval of the churches. He regarded the war as a religious matter. The crimes of Germany, so cruel, so terrible, could not be described. Consider the way in which this nation of organized brutality in deliberate disregard of all, has set itself out to crush one little state after another. Consider how she has been preparing not how best to protect herself, but to do evil to the rest of the world. It was useless to say the war was the Kaiser's and not the peoples. The people are in this war. Then you will say they are praying for peace in their churches; are the same as we are. I know they are; but do you know the German church is a state affair, and has but

little spiritual hold on the people. It is a state institution devoted to prove that all their bestial acts are forgivable. His Excellency then spoke of the present offensive. He asked the question what was the meaning of being pressed back? and answered it as follows: Our high command and soldiers were expecting the blow. They have waited for the attack. We can only say the blow was worse than expected. This was caused by the extensive preparation of the Germans. The Germans had been falsifying their statements; no one knew how many men were at their back. It was almost impossible to make quite certain where the blow would fall and it was necessary for tactical purposes to fall back, taking toll of the Germans as they retired. To people in this Dominion who do not know what this blow means, he would say it had been stopped. What is the duty of this Dominion in this crisis? That has been conveyed in the telegram received. In St. John's we have done very well. Twillingate gave 6 p.c. of her population; Trinity very near up to 6 p.c. but only 3 other districts have passed the 4 p.c. mark, viz., St. George's, Port de Grave and St. Barbe. The present appeal will be made and every member of the recruiting committee should say to these men, "Will you go and take up your duty? It is a religious duty. If some of those thieves were climbing over your walls wouldn't you fight? You are all brave men, and you show that in your daily calling with the elements. His Excellency spoke of visiting a sick friend 2 years ago, and he said to him the more I read and think over this war I feel more certain that a good God will not allow those Germans to triumph. That's the faith in which these men have fought and won these medals. We must remember that the sea comes almost first and we will be also asked for Naval Reservists and Forestry men. His Excellency then presented the Military Cross to Lieut. Jack Turner, saying, "I have no record to show what act this decoration is given, but I know sufficient cases in which that medal had to be won to know that your act was such as to raise you above your fellows. Only His Majesty the King can pin this medal on, but I am privileged to hand it to you on behalf of the Dominion of Canada and also of Newfoundland." The others were then presented to Mr. Josiah Best, Mrs. Catherine Lacey and Mr. N. Lidstone, the following being read by Major W. F. Rendell:

Award of Military Medal to No. 42 Corporal Frank Gordon Best.

(Extract from London Gazette, 28/8/17)
His Majesty the King has been pleased to award the Military Medal to No. 42 Corporal Frank G. Best, The Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

For Bravery in the Field.

(Extract from 88th Brigade Lists)
"This N. C. O. was one of the scouts in a raid on the enemy's trenches on the night of 17/18 July, 1917 east of the Yser Canal. On reaching the enemy's lines the raiding party were bombed, but Corporal Best being the nearest man, rushed into the trench and drove the enemy along to the right, thus allowing the rest of the party to get in without opposition. Under this Corporal's lead the bombing party accounted for several of the enemy and took one prisoner. This N. C. O. showed himself to be absolutely fearless, and it was owing to his initiative and courage that the raiding party entered the enemy's lines without casualties. He voluntarily led the rear guard covering the retirement to the British lines." (Strength of Raiding Party: 2 Officers, 50 other ranks.)

Award of Military Medal to No. 244 Private George Lacey.

(Extract from London Gazette, 18/10/17.)
His Majesty the King has been pleased to award the Military Medal to No. 244, Private George Lacey, The Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

For Bravery in the Field.

(Extract from 88th Brigade Lists)
"In the attack on the enemy near Langemark on 16th August, 1917, when his Company was held up in front of a road by rifle fire, this man



with others went out on his own initiative, crossing from shell-hole to shell-hole, and finally getting in rear of the road, bombed out small dug-outs containing two and three men each. They killed about 19 of the enemy and signalled to their Company to advance on completion of this act."

Award of Military Medal to No. 163 Corporal Harold Lidstone.

(Extract from London Gazette, 17/9/17.)
His Majesty the King has been pleased to award the Military Medal to No. 163, Corporal Harold Lidstone, The Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

For Bravery in the Field.

(Extract from 88th Brigade Lists)
"This N. C. O. was one of the foremost men in a raid on the enemy's trenches east of the Yser Canal on the night of 17/18 July, 1917. He took a leading part in entering a dugout killing one German and taking another prisoner. His work contributed in a great measure to the success of the raid." (Strength of raiding party: 2 Officers, 50 other ranks.)
These decorations were presented amid much applause.

Dr. Lloyd was the next speaker and said we must have united action in everything. We've got to live and one of the greatest problems is the getting food supplies. The greatest trouble is the tonnage question. Bad as was the wreck of the Florizel with the deplorable loss of life, the evil effects have yet to be felt. The British Government cannot replace her. All shipping is now needed for carrying troops and foodstuffs. The same thing applies to the American Government. Disposition cannot be afforded. The British Government's need of ships is greater than ours, troops must be got over to stem the German onslaught. You have seen the pictures of our soldiers, read of their deeds and seen the decorations presented which were won by some of ours. To maintain the Regiment in the field, I am prepared to go to any outpost and appeal to any district. The Minister of Militia has pointed out the results of last fall's appeal which were not up to expectations. The proportions of enlistments from St. John's was one for the city to be proud of. The appeal of His Excellency the Governor had nothing to do with that of Premier Lloyd George as it was in his (Dr. Lloyd's) hands the day before. We need the support of public opinion and it is to be hoped that similar overflowing meetings will be held in the outposts. I have no objection to conscription, but I am not convinced that the country is ready for it. The principle is right, but I don't see how we can get it without public opinion. Are you prepared to support this inaugural recruiting meeting to-night. I hope to see the same expression of approval repeated at every meeting. In trying to lead you in this campaign, which is intended to be a successful effort (Voice: Why don't you do it, then?) to raise men for the Regiment I am asking for united action and presume that we are united. We want vigor thrown into the recruiting and the campaign helped along. The Premier, at the conclusion, said that the best

appreciated meetings and best remembered of his life were those marked by interruptions.

Lieut. Leo Murphy who has seen much fighting with the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, and who was the official Eye Witness with the Regiment in France, next addressed the large audience. The returned hero said in part: Your Excellency, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I can assure you it is indeed a great privilege to me to be allowed to say a few words with regard to a subject which is dearest to all hearts in Newfoundland. There is no question but you are all with us to-night in this campaign, and during the trying hours "Over There." As I stand here I have before me this evening two pictures indelibly impressed on my memory, one of which is a notable gathering of Officers, N. C. O's and men of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment held in London about a month ago. It was a notable gathering for everyone associated with the Dominion of Newfoundland; all of us had then an opportunity to discuss the good old days before the war-cloud came on the horizon. The Chairman of the War Contingent Association was present and he spoke to us as to a people of his own flock, not as a politician but as one who had the Dominion of Nfld. at heart. He made us realize what we were really up against. There are some here to-night (hear, hear, from gallery) who were at that gathering, and I was talking to men there who were wounded three, four and five times, yet they had to be sent back because there were no reserves. He made us see eye to eye with those who had the Empire at heart and made everyone proud that he has the courage of his convictions and that he was doing his utmost for King and Country.

The second picture is of a beautiful hill in France dressed in all the beauty of an April morn. Over this hill we advanced, and though beaten, badly the remnant rolled back two divisions of Germans which had been preparing for this onslaught. With our back against the wall there was no retreat. There is no such word, ladies and gentlemen, as retreat with the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. You have all loved to see parades, brass bands, and you have all gazed on the Union Jack, the Standard of Liberty of that nation which never broke its bond. What are we doing? St. John's has done its bit! Sections of the outposts in Newfoundland have done their bit, but their are others which have not. We are into this war to win. It is no mere loss to us who go over there. It is to Newfoundland as it is Newfoundland's war as much as it is Britain's. We say we are a proud and loyal country. Are you going to let us go down? The responsibility of keeping my pals, your friends and relatives (loud applause) is ours. The Prime Minister has said "let there be no dissension." We have "no dissension" in France, we have no creeds there, no varying religions, we worship at different altars, but we are one body, one regiment raised to fight for you. The flags of the Allies are flying at the masthead to-day, and ladies and gentlemen, we must keep them there. Then in a very pointed and effective conclusion which brought forth a thunderous applause the returned officer said: I am hoping in a short time to be fit again and go back to the firing line, let me ask how many men are coming back with me! Dr. Robinson moved the vote of thanks to His Excellency and in his remarks thought that Lieut. Murphy had given the keynote of the whole meeting in the concluding sentence of his address. The one question now is how to keep up the Regiment. Perhaps it is best to meet with reverses at times as it stimulates our fighters. Every young man must be made to realize it's up to him personally to see that the victory for Right is achieved. Let our splendid Regiment be withdrawn! I perish the thought! ! ! Not one man would answer "Yes" to that query if put in the right way to him. The boys of the outposts, if given the chance, would do their duty as well as any. The 185th Canadian Battalion is composed almost entirely of outpost men. We should be as proud of them as of our Nfld. Regiment. If

you would give the outpost lads the same chances, the bands, the pictures, etc., they will respond. He wished to propose a vote of thanks to His Excellency the Governor for coming to the meeting, but His Excellency as an English gentleman and a true Britisher had only done his duty. The vote was accorded by acclamation and His Excellency in a few well chosen words responded. The meeting closed with the National Anthem by the C.L.B. band which was present during the evening and rendered several selections.

Wanted, a Patriot.

"Wanted, a Patriot!"
A man who'll forget himself. Who sees the need of his country. And counts it greater than wealth. Who realizes men are needed. No sacrifice counts too great. That Victory be not impeded. And men come forward too late.

"Wanted, a Patriot!"
A man who can deal with men. Whose word men know is his honour. Whose name is without a stain. No more empty words and stage-play. Promises made, but not kept. Men are awake to such fool-play. Through much injustice they have slept.

"Wanted, a Patriot!"
A man who will see fair play. No more returned wounded soldiers Sent empty-handed away. Have they not done their part truly? They are but asking what's right. Recruiting is useless surely. Until these things are put right.

Why tell men they are needed. To fight for Freedom and Right When they by bitter experience Have learnt falsehood blacker than night.

There must be in this Country Somewhere a man who loves truth. With power and wealth for the duty Of Patriot, in deed and in truth.

NOTE OF THANKS.—The family of the late Mrs. John Curnew desire to sincerely thank the following ladies for their kindness during her illness: Mrs. Col. Otway, Mrs. Staff Capt. Turner, Misses Stott, Mrs. N. Hussey, Mrs. Newbury and all kind friends who assisted in any way; also the following for wreaths: Members of the Salvation Army Home League, W. and R. English, Mrs. D. M. Baird.

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Preliminary Notice

AS TO THE PAYMENT OF AUGMENTATION PAY TO MEN OF THE ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE (N.F.L.R.)

The Government are arranging through the Militia Department for the payment of Augmentation Pay to the men of the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve. These payments will be made from 1st May next, and will cover the period from commencement of the war from the date of enlistment, the case might be. Full instructions as to claims, and applications as to payments will be published within the next few days.

J. R. BENNETT,
Acting Minister of Militia
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