

The speeches of Sir John Gibson, Colonel Logie, Major Huggins and Lieut. G. W. Ballard—especially the two last, who lent a pathetic touch to the proceedings—stirred the very heart-strings of the audience, and aroused a desire to give service of some kind, and to sacrifice pleasure and profit in the noble cause of the Allies.

A spirit of intense fervour was kindled on this pleasant summer evening, under the influence of an urgent national necessity. It quickened with the darkening days, and showed no weakening as long as there was need for its strength.

Henceforth, the citizens of Hamilton saw a great and manifest duty before them, and allowed themselves no respite until their work was done.

No sooner was the League established, than its influence permeated every stratum of society. The intense earnestness of its members, and the infinite variety of their methods, inspired the populace with a keen and personal interest in the War which they had not felt before.

A new era set in; recruiting revived and flourished; and during the strenuous months that followed, the City was drained of the flower of its manhood. The noble sons of Hamilton went forth in their thousands, proud to march under a flag that they loved so well. The City set a glorious example to others, and its leadership in recruiting matters was acknowledged.

At the inaugural meeting on July 7th the following officers were elected:

*Hon. President*, General Sir J. M. Gibson, K.C.M.G.

*Hon. Vice-President*, Mayor Chester Walters.

*President*, Col. A. F. Hatch.

*Vice-President*, Col. G. D. Fearman.

*Secretary*, H. A. Burbidge.

*Treasurer*, W. S. Connolly.

Sub-Committees were struck, and their leaders selected. The Executive Committee was to consist of the Chief Officers of the League, together with the Chairman and Secretary of each Sub-Committee. It was to meet once a week, using the officers' quarters of the 13th and 91st Regiments alternately. Although but two members of each sub-committee were empowered to sit on the Executive, a wise elasticity was exercised, and men whose zeal attracted them to the meetings were at all times welcomed and accorded the full rights of membership.

For some time the Executive acted without the direct assistance of the rank and file of the League. Then a change