

ment in despatching the first contingent of men over to England has been a good work, and one that has been appreciated throughout the country, but in connection with that I would like to draw the attention of my hon. friend the leader of this House to the question of recruiting throughout the western country. There was in the West a great deal of dissatisfaction expressed in the way the first part of this recruiting was conducted, and a great many men who had come from long distances were very much disappointed to find that after they had been enrolled they were again disbanded. They had come long distances in order to give their services to the country, and they were unable to return to the work that they had left, and were placed in a position of being thrown on the country without any prospects of obtaining work, and without any knowledge of where to go and look for it. Then also there was a large number of men who came a long distance, gave up their homesteads, left them for the purpose of enlisting, and when they got to the point where they thought it was possible for them to have an opportunity of enlisting, they found that they could get no information, and were left without knowing what they could do. This condition of things was shown up by some letters that appeared in the Spectator of London, England. The first letter appeared on the 26th December, 1914, and reads as follows:—

The Lack of Recruiting Facilities in Canada.
To the Editor of the Spectator.

Sir,—Your editorials, your leading articles, the correspondence you publish, reiterate weekly the need for men and more men. Here in western Canada, and I believe it is the same in eastern Canada, men single and unemployed, the vast majority between the ages of eighteen and thirty-eight, the vast majority born in the British Isles, are flocking into the cities and are willing and anxious to fight for Canada and the mother country. What do they find? For every man required for the Canadian forces there are five or more offering themselves. The cities they have come to have no work for them, the country districts and railroad camps they have come from require them no longer; they are forced to beg, borrow, or steal a livelihood.

The press and public men in public speeches on both sides of politics have sought in vain an explanation for the anomaly from the Government on this side of the Atlantic. Is there no chance of an explanation coming from your side? If the British Government chartered a steamer to sail from Halifax on Christmas Day, no better Christmas gift could be given to hundreds of young men in Canada than the opportunity to fight for their King. If Canada cannot mobilize these men here, if Canada cannot

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK.

not give them employment, let her at least see that they are given the opportunity to fight.

I am, sir, etc.,

J. Howard T. Talk.

126 Ethelbert street,
Winnipeg, Man., Canada.

Then there is a note to that letter, appended by the editor of the Spectator of London, England:

(If the facts are as stated by our correspondent, a great opportunity would seem to have been missed. Every citizen of the British Empire who wishes to join the Imperial forces ought to be given facilities for doing so, provided he is eligible. It should in war time be his inalienable right.—Ed. Spectator.)

Further a letter appeared on the 2nd January from a gentleman signing himself 'A continental chaplain,' which reads as follows:—

The Lack of Recruiting Facilities in Canada.

[To the Editor of the Spectator.]

Sir,—I read with great satisfaction the letter of your correspondent from Winnipeg, with your appended note in approval. There must surely be some defect in the organization for recruiting in western Canada and British Columbia by which we are losing large numbers of men who would furnish the best material for the addition so much needed to our present forces. The facts concerning lack of employment, cited by your correspondent are nowhere more appalling than in Vancouver, where, as a private letter (from my son-in-law) informs me, there are at present some fifteen thousand men in enforced idleness. I feel confident that if sufficient facilities were offered, the urgency of the need properly put before them, and recruiting seriously pressed, a very large proportion of these would gladly offer themselves to serve. If, as it would appear, the fault of slackness rests with the Canadian Government; cannot the initiative come from the Home Government? It is not to be thought that considerations of expense of transcontinental transport can possibly stand in the way, in view of our national need,—I am, sir, etc.,

A Continental Chaplain.

Then on the 9th January, a week later, a third letter appeared as follows:—

The Lack of Recruiting Facilities in Canada.

[To the Editor of the Spectator.]

Sir,—Since reading Mr. J. H. T. Falk's letter and the editorial note in your issue of December 26, 1914, I have received a letter from my brother, who is in Saskatchewan. Before going to Canada he was in a yeomanry regiment, and is a good shot, yet he finds it impossible to get into any Canadian force for active service. He has been trying since the war started, but has only succeeded in getting into a local corps whose chances of going to the front are exceedingly remote. This is what he says in the letter I received on December 27:

After the quotation the writer continues: