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The Hamilton Recruiting League



MAJOR-GENERAL, THE HON. S. C. MEWBURN. C. M. G., M. P.
Minister of Militia.

Until July, 1915, the work of recruiting was entirely in the hands of military officials. Their success was highly satisfactory, and Hamilton's contribution to the Overseas forces was considered worthy of the City.

In the summer of 1915, however, the flow of recruits began to show signs of sluggishness, and the Militia authorities became concerned.

The idea of civilian co-operation, with a view to arousing public interest in the state of the war and Canada's obligations, originated in the fertile brain of Col. S. C. Mewburn.

After he had held some consultation with local officers, plans were formulated for the establishment of a Recruiting League, and on July 7th the project was launched.

A largely attended meeting was held at the Armouries, with Col. A. F. Hatch as chairman. As the organization which then came into being achieved remarkable success and a wide reputation, the manner of its inception deserves more than passing mention.

While, no doubt, there had arisen in the minds of thoughtful people a conviction that the magnitude of the War would demand the full energy of every man in the Empire, it needed the enthusiasm of a meeting like this to fan the spark of secret anxiety into a flame of patriotic ardour.