

Volunteer Movement Acclaimed by Large Public Meeting.



The public meeting held at the C. I. B. Armory last night to consider the question of enlisting volunteers for land service abroad and home defence during the war, was very largely attended. All classes were represented and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed.

Promptly at 8.30 p.m. His Excellency Sir W. E. Davidson attended by Capt. Goodridge, A. D. C., and accompanied by French Consul Suzor and Professor Dunstan, arrived at the Armory and was greeted by an outburst of cheering, while the C. I. B. Band played the National Anthem. On the platform with His Excellency were besides those who accompanied him, Rt. Hon. Sir E. P. Morris, Hon. R. K. Bishop, R. A. Squires, J. R. Bennett, E. R. Bowring, C. H. Emerson, J. Harris, J. Anderson, P. T. McGrath, M. P. Cashin, Messrs. W. G. Gosling, W. D. Reid, T. J. Edens, H. W. LeMessurier, Capt. Wakefield, Rev. J. Sutherland, Dr. Macpherson, Mr. Kiegan, Lt. Col. Paterson, Lt. Col. Rendell, Major Cartwright, I. G. Sullivan, W. H. Rennie and others.

The Premier stated briefly the object for which the meeting had been called and requested His Excellency to take the chair.

The Governor did so and thanked the gathering for the reception accorded him. He stated that the present question was the most momentous one in the history of our country. England had been forced into war by German aggression, but now that she had entered the fight she would give it her full measure and uphold the record of her old British fighting forebears. He believed that the German working people were fighting with reluctance, but they were dominated by an overbearing bureaucracy and a dominating military clique, whose one ambition was to dominate the world and particularly the British world. In reality the principle at stake in Germany was shall a military oligarchy still prevail and extend its evil influence through the world. If they fail, as he believed they would, the people would demand a democratic government. A government where the people have no voice in such issues as the present one is a curse to the world. The mailed fist has been raised by imitators of the great Bismark who are swollen with vanity. Bismark took care to attack weaker people, but in this instance the Germans have met their match. Germany's dream was to seize the countries which border on the continental side of the North Sea, and use that as a base to crush England, which is the real objective of their campaign. Then England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales is to be partitioned out among the sabbre rattling yokers of Germany and our people at home made their subjects and following on this would come the seizure of British Colonies. From recent despatches, the initial movements of the campaign have been thwarted by the gallantry of little Belgium. Their effort to be in Brussels a week ago has failed, and France with her fine army, her splendid artillery, her dashing cavalry and her able generals are at work doing grand service for the common cause. It behoves every British subject to aid the Mother Country to finish the fight as speedily as possible. Newfoundland must do her part, laying claim, as we do to being

the oldest and most loyal Colony. In my telegram to the Home Government, continued His Excellency, I stated we were poor in money and rich in men; men who are accustomed to meet all difficulties without wavering. I pledged myself that Newfoundland would furnish 500 men, but I hope the number will be 5,000. The struggle may be desperate, but we will win "hands down," and I hope our folks will get in the front so they may have a chance to uphold our reputation. He then called upon Lt. Col. Rendell, of the C. I. B. to move the first resolution.

Lt. Col. Rendell had no doubt of the patriotic sentiment throughout the Island, and felt sure there would be no difficulty in securing volunteers. Our lads, because of their drill and general sports were in splendid condition for the land service, and any differences that might have arisen amongst the brigades over athletic contests, was now laid aside and all are now joining in upholding the prestige of the Empire. He then offered the C. I. B. Armory and equipment as long as the war lasted, for the use of the proposed force, after which he moved the following resolution:—

WHEREAS in common with every other portion of the British Empire, Newfoundland is anxious to assist in every possible way in the justifiable war in which the Empire, of which we are proud to be a part, is now engaged;

AND WHEREAS this Colony, through His Excellency the Governor, has offered several hundred efficient trained men, for enlistment for service abroad in the present war;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that steps should be taken to provide for the enlistment of these men, as well as their equipment and maintenance;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that a Committee of twenty-five citizens, with power to add to their numbers, be appointed to take such steps as may be deemed necessary for enlisting and equipping these men, and in this respect to act in conjunction with the Government of the Colony and His Excellency the Governor, and that the Magistrate in the outports be asked to take similar steps.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appointment of this Committee be left in the hands of His Excellency the Governor.

On rising and on closing, Lieut. Col. Rendell was received with the utmost enthusiasm.

In the unavoidable absence of Major Hutchings, Hon. R. A. Squires, on behalf of the Methodist Guards, seconded the motion. He made complimentary references to the C.I.B. and His Excellency the Governor. To the former for the spirit of enthusiasm displayed by that body and its commanding officer, and to His Excellency for his whole-hearted interest in this movement. The whole Colony owes a debt of gratitude to His Excellency because it was mainly through his instrumentality that the meeting was convened. Continuing, the speaker believed and hoped that the resolution would be carried enthusiastically. It was not good enough for any one section of the Empire to be called upon to do all the defence work, so that it was now up to Newfoundland to contribute her mite to the matter what the self-sacrifice would amount to. He referred to the enthusiastic way one of our northern settlements had sent away her naval reserve men. The whole settlement had turned out and given them a brilliant send-off, and told them, in the spirit of the Spartan mothers, not to come back except with victory perched on their crests. Britain and her sons, he said, were not fighting for their own aggrandisement but simply for freedom and right and for the protection of the civilized world. In conclusion he again expressed the hope that the resolutions would be passed. On closing the speaker was given a great ovation.

Speaking in support of the motion, Capt. Wakefield, representing the Legion of Frontiersmen, endorsed heartily the remarks of the previous speakers. He went on to say that Canada was sending a squad of volunteers, and he pointed out where the Frontiersmen were going to fit in. There were 150 of them ready to go at a moment's notice. In order to send 150 men to England he estimated that it would cost \$20,000, that is, including some provision for their families. He was certain that Newfoundland would prove her loyalty and patriotism to the Empire as well as any other British possession beyond the seas during the momentous crisis.

The resolution was then put to the meeting by His Excellency and passed unanimously and enthusiastically.

On behalf of the C.C.C., Capt. Cartwright, who was received with great applause, emphasized what had already been said, and intimated the willingness of members of the Cadet Corps to work in harmony with the other brigades in the volunteer movement,

thrusting aside all petty differences that may have existed. The Catholic Cadets intended to do their part. He offered the use of the Cadet Armory and also the services of C.C.C. officers for training recruits. He then proposed the subjoined resolution.

Lieut.-Col. Paterson, of the Newfoundland Highlanders, in seconding the motion, gave the watchword of Horatio Nelson, at Trafalgar: "England expects that every man this day will do his duty!"

Dr. Macpherson, on behalf of the St. John Ambulance Brigade Overseas, in supporting the motion, said the local division had been at work some years in preparing men to aid the less fortunate of those who took part in the fight. They represented the sadder side of war and were fitting themselves to help those who fell in battle. He had in his pocket a list of men who had pledged themselves to go out as the ambulance corps of the Newfoundland battalion volunteering for the front and they would also furnish ambulance men for the volunteers raised for service at home. The Governor then read these resolutions:—

Resolution, proposed by Major Cartwright.

WHEREAS, in common with every other portion of the British Empire, Newfoundland is anxious to assist in every possible way in the justifiable war in which the Empire, of which we are proud to be a part, is now engaged;

AND WHEREAS this Colony, through His Excellency the Governor, has ordered to recruit serviceable men between eighteen (18) and thirty-six (36) years of age, to enrol themselves in training for Home Defence, wherever Corps Instructors are available;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that steps should be taken to provide for the enlistment of these men, as well as their equipment and maintenance;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Committee provided for in the former RESOLUTION be empowered to take such steps as may be deemed necessary for enlisting and equipping these men; and also, in this respect, to act in conjunction with the Government of the Colony and His Excellency the Governor.

Rt. Hon. Sir E. P. Morris on taking the floor said that the meeting had been called to endorse the pledge given by the Government to furnish men for the front. Immediately upon the declaration of war the assistance of Newfoundland was pledged and the time is now opportune for the oldest Colony to take up her share of the burden of Imperial defence.

The war was, as His Excellency stated, provoked by a despot and England was compelled to resort to arms in self-defence. We have the ships, the men and the money, and with the assistance of France and Russia Britain will hold her own and Newfoundlanders will in the days to come feel proud of the part they had taken that day. The war was a fight for the principle of democratic government and it was to decide whether democracy was to dominate the Twentieth Century civilization or whether civilization was to be crushed under the iron heel of despotism.

Monsieur Suzor, the French Consul, was introduced to the gathering by His Excellency, and received an enthusiastic ovation. The audience sang the Marseillaise. At the request of Mons. Suzor His Excellency thanked the gathering for the demonstration and also paid a glowing tribute to the great French Army.

Mr. W. G. Gosling, Chairman of the Civic Commission, was the next speaker and stated that he felt at such a juncture Newfoundland was such a representative by Governor Davidson. He asked that the thanks of the meeting be tendered His Excellency for presiding, a request that met with applause, cheers being also given for the "King, The Mother Country and France."

The meeting closed with the National Anthem and was a most enthusiastic one showing that Newfoundland will do her share in the defence of the Empire.

Many young men of the city with brigade training have already expressed their intention of volunteering for service overseas while citizens generally are eager for the establishment of a corps for home defence.

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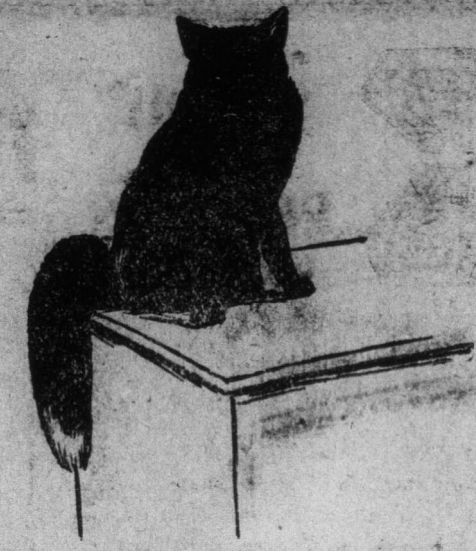
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