

NEWFOUNDLAND HAS DONE WELL



Some of the Jack Tars now in the British Navy who were formerly Naval Reservists in Newfoundland.

St. John's, Nfld., Dec. 7, 1916.

WHILE you are recounting what the various Provinces of Canada have done and are doing for the Empire in the war, please not to forget Newfoundland. Nobody ever takes the trouble to tell what this ancient colony is doing to hold up her end. This is almost unpardonable, both because her great age entitles this eldest daughter of the British house to considerable respectful notice and because, further, she has exerted herself to the utmost during the past couple of years to provide men and material for both the senior and junior branches of the British services.

Some time in the musty past the British authorities allotted to the self-governing colony of Newfoundland a rather striking coat of arms, bearing an assertive legend, stated in Latin terms which, being rather freely translated, signify "I bring thee gifts." The legendary central figure being Britannia and the gift-bearer a fisherman, holding out a codfish, the meaning of the designer of the Coat of Arms is quite apparent. But these stirring times of war have given the motto of "Ye Ancient Colonie" a newer and broader significance, for, in keeping with the exigencies of the times, she is now dedicating her men as well as her codfish to the Empire.

While Newfoundland had no militia to serve as a nucleus for a trained military force when war's alarms were first sounded in Europe, she possessed a magnificent trained force of Naval Reservists, who were at once summoned to active service. Recruits were also asked for and there was a splendid response from the young fishermen of the country, close on a thousand of whom enrolled within a very few weeks, bringing the total strength of the Newfoundland Naval Reserve up to about fifteen hundred men.

It is distressing to review the years that passed before the outbreak of war and to note the prodigality with which the Imperial authorities flung away their opportunities of raising and training a body of first-

By H. M. MOSDELL

class seamen for service in just such an emergency as the present. The Admiralty have told the Canadian authorities that five thousand seamen are urgently needed for the British Fleet. That force might have been available here in Newfoundland had the Home authorities done as the Colonial Government so frequently urged them.

And even now the most is not being made of such opportunity as remains. Recruiting for the Navy is slow in this colony, because the rate of pay for seamen on active service is not made equal to that of the military volunteers. When a young man has the army open to him with \$1.10 per day, and field allowances beside, he is extremely unlikely to turn it down for service on a British warship where he would receive but 50c. per day. He can do his "bit" for his Empire in the army and receive a fair rate of pay, even if by training, instinct and inclination he is far better suited to serve on the high seas. Probably at some time in the future, which may Providence hustle along to us, the powers-that-be will learn how to employ efficiently the material that lies ready to hand for shaping into weapons with which to smite the foe.

The Newfoundland Naval Reservists have done excellent service in all parts of the world since the outbreak of hostilities. Some were drafted to the Niobe, and the commander of that ship characterized them as "a physically fine body of men who carried out their duties in a most satisfactory manner." Others were sent to man some of the numerous armed merchantmen employed by the British naval authorities for various services. Many are serving on the little ships which patrol the North Sea. Newfoundland sailors were well spoken of as members of the companies on the ships engaged in the unfortunate Dardanelles enterprise; in fact, it was during these operations that a Newfoundland Naval Reservist was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

And Newfoundland has also helped pay the "price of Admiralty." Twenty-five of her gallant seamen went down with the Viknor, during the opening months of the war; a week or so later the Clan MacNaughton was lost at sea with all hands, including twenty-two Newfoundlanders, and within a couple of months thereafter a German submarine torpedoed the Bayano, sending eleven more to their deaths on the North Sea.

Official notification of the Declaration of War on Germany by Great Britain had scarcely been received before the local authorities decided that Newfoundland should also endeavour to assist the Imperial cause by raising a military contingent for service at the Front. A force of five hundred men was regarded as a splendid initial offering from a fishing country. But the authorities did not understand the spirit of the people, for, within a couple of weeks, the young manhood of the city of St. John's alone had filled up the ranks of this force and left a couple of hundred men over for a second regiment of equal strength. Ten times the initial number aimed at has been recruited since, and still volunteers are pouring in, this, mind you, without any systematic recruiting campaign having been undertaken by the military authorities.

For upwards of two years now Newfoundland's Volunteers have served in all quarters of the Globe. They first saw service in Egypt, where they helped the Anzacs repel the Turks. Then they were drafted to Gallipoli, where their courage, dash and initiative elicited the highest praise from Brigadier-General D. E. Cayley, in command of the immortal 29th Division, to which the Newfoundlanders were attached.

"By their conduct," declared General Cayley, "the Newfoundlanders have brought distinction to the Brigade and have proved themselves to be possessed of self-reliance, bravery and tenacity, the first qualities of a good soldier."

Surely it is but natural for one to wonder what
(Continued on page 22.)