

"THERE WILL BE NO POLITICS IN MY REGIMENT; MERT ALONE WILL COUNT."---Col. Geo. W. Fowler of the 104th

STIRRING ADDRESS BY POPULAR OFFICER AT GREATEST MEETING OF THE RECRUITING CAMPAIGN

Col. Fowler Thrills Immense Gathering in Queen's Rink With Eloquence of His Call to Service—Scenes of Enthusiasm—One Hundred and Twenty Men of New Brunswick Go Forward to Join the Colors.

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Among those present on the platform were: Chief Justice McLeod, E. A. Schofield, A. M. Belding, Joseph Knowles, Alex. Rowan, H. W. Woods, M. L. A. F. C. MacNeill, C. E. Scamell, S. L. Peters, of Queenstown, and the following officers of the 104th Battalion: Lieutenant-Colonel Gunning, second in command; Captain J. A. Brooks, Lieutenants T. W. Barnes, F. B. Young, M. Mackay, J. J. H. Doone and R. E. MacLachlan; Colonel E. T. Sturges presided and with a few well chosen words introduced the speaker of the evening. He said many of those present were perhaps not acquainted with Colonel Fowler. "But," said Colonel Sturges, "I have known him for a great many years, and I know that the commander of the 104th Battalion is one of the finest men in this province. We are here tonight to get one hundred recruits, and I feel sure we will be successful." I take great pleasure in introducing Lieutenant-Colonel Fowler.

Col. Geo. W. Fowler, M. P.

Colonel Fowler who, for several minutes, was unable to make himself heard over the uproar of applause which greeted him, said in part: "I have not come here to discuss the whys or wherefores of the great conflict in which the Empire is engaged, or who started it. You have heard that talk of from one hundred platforms; you have read it through the press in the multitude of editorials written on the question. I am not here to argue with any man as to the merits of this quarrel, for the man who has not already made up his mind on that point has not much of a mind to make up. "I take it for granted that question had been disposed of to the effect that the enemy of the Empire to which we are all proud to belong has been the aggressor and is responsible for this war. We, therefore, have the double advantage; we are fighting for the right, and we are fighting for our country, which we would fight for whether right or wrong.

Men Are Needed.

"There is no use disguising the fact that a great crisis has arisen in the affairs of the Empire. The difficulty in the Balkan states has complicated the situation, and today the question of whether we shall be victor or vanquished still hangs in the balance. That is why there is a general call for men from all parts of the Empire to rally to the colors. We are all needed every man of us."

Voice from the audience—"Will you take an old man 70 years of age?"
Col. Fowler—"Yes, we will take you no matter what your age."

Voice from the audience—"I am 70." Col. Fowler—"Well then, give us your prayers." (Applause.)
Col. Fowler continuing said: "The call has come from the King to the people of the Empire. I am not in sympathy with those who brand as a coward the man of military age who has not yet enlisted. It is not cowardice, but indifference that keeps young men from enlisting. They say 'The Empire will muddle through without me. The Empire will not be beaten.' No, the Empire will not be beaten if the men who today are on the fence pondering whether they will enlist or not will come down and join the colors.

The Enemy at Our Gates.

"Do you realize that the enemy is at our very gates? Do you realize what would happen if we were unable to stop the Germans in France; if we were unable to hold back the German hordes that, I say tonight, are at our very gates? Yes, say 'No, that is not possible, our bay is clear, the Atlantic ocean is clear,' but where are the gates of this country of ours? I say they are on those splendid lines in Flanders so valiantly defended last year. Those boys who fought so well are keeping our gates. That great long line of grey monsters in the North Sea is keeping the gates. The British navy is keeping the gates. (Applause.)

The Navy Was Ready.

"The British navy has had proud times in its history, but it has never made such a record as in this war. Not under the leadership of the gallant Nelson; not in those days which culminated with the victory of Trafalgar, did the British navy earn as fine a record as in this war. They have

said that when war broke out we were not prepared. Well, whatever else was unprepared, thank God, the navy was ready. What would have happened if it had not been ready? The Germans would have been at the gates of Paris three weeks after the war broke out but for the fact that they were turned back by the gallant work of the land forces, and but for the fact that the British navy was ready in the North Sea and bottled up the boasted German fleet in the placid waters of the Kiel Canal. No one knows of the privations suffered by the men of the navy as, during the winter months, they kept their vigil in the North Sea. They have kept the gates. Are we going to help them? (Applause.)

Remember the 26th.

"I am an older man than hundreds of you here. I have many things to keep me at home. I have a wife and family and a comfortable home, and everything to keep me in comfort and enjoyment. But I found it ten times harder to stay at home than to go to the front. I found I could not meet my fellow townsmen and explain to them why I was not doing my bit, why I was not exerting every effort in my power to preserve to my children this heritage of freedom. "And if the fates choose that some of those who go do not come back? There are sad hearts and homes in St. John tonight as the result of the casualties in the 26th—these men have died for you and for me. Shall their deaths fall of effect; will you not strengthen the lines they held so well? The men of the 26th gave their lives for that freedom that can only be preserved to us by the complete triumph of the allied armies. We want men, and I want to tell you that so long as a man has red blood pulsing through his veins and the vigor of youth in him, it matters little what number of years he has marked on the dial, he is not too old. (Applause.)

The Case of Edith Cavell.

"We want men to share in the fight for freedom, to prevent the Germans from gaining ascendancy over us and thus enslaving the race. Do you know what will happen if the Germans gain the ascendancy? Take the case of Nurse Cavell, that beautiful young woman who held her head high as she went to her death with a British flag on her breast. What happened to her? When the common soldiers of the Kaiser, moved by some stray spark of pity, lowered their rifles so that she would not be shot in a vital spot, a Prussian officer, a splendid product of German culture, drew his revolver and shot her through the head. That is what the Germans would do to your wives and mothers and sisters if they gained the ascendancy."

A Voice—"Never, Never."

Col. Fowler—"Then see to it that they do not get the opportunity."

Straight Questions.

"Why should I fight for you? Why can't you do your own fighting? Why should Jones' son and Smith's son give up the comforts of civil life and go to the trenches, while Robinson's son and Brown's son stay at home, sleep on soft beds, eat good food and take their girls to the moving picture shows? Applause."

"I am proud to go to do my bit. I have shortcomings, many of them, but when I made the offer to raise and command a regiment I determined that if I was accepted I would devote all my time and all my energies to the perfecting of that regiment and I will see to it that we bring no stain of dishonor on this province. Applause."

Excellent Officers.

Turning to the officers on the platform Col. Fowler then asked them to stand. When they had done so he pointed to them and said: "I have brought with me tonight some of the best looking officers of the 104th. I did not bring the handsome ones, for I understood there were to be ladies here and I did not want the ladies to

be dazzled by such an array of beauty. Look them over. Is it not a matter of pride to command a battalion with officers such as these? This is the class of men I have chosen. The government gave me a free hand with my officers. I asked for it. I said 'I want men with red blood in their veins, not dressed dolls.' I want men of substance, men of education, men of breeding, men who have a stake in the country, not fly-by-nights, and I have got them. I intend to get such men in the ranks of the 104th." (Applause.)

Pointing to one of the officers, Col. Fowler said: "Here is a boy, right from your own city, St. John. You all know him. Well I want to tell you that his great grandfather was lieutenant in the famous old 104th regiment that made the march in mid-winter from Fredericton to Kingston, Ontario, and from what I know of this boy he will give as good an account of himself when the test comes as did his heroic ancestor."

The Old 104th.

"You have heard much of the famous old 104th. In the record they made we have something to live up to to inspire us. They marched from Fredericton to Kingston, Ontario, a march which the great Wellington said was the most wonderful in history. That is what the 104th did and you have reason to be proud of them, you loyalist people of St. John. They were your ancestors. You are their descendants. Are the descendants inferior to the ancestors? "The old 104th made its record under the most adverse circumstances. What was their commissariat on that march? Hardtack and salt pork. Today, conditions have changed and the Canadian soldier is the best fed, the best clothed and the best paid soldier in the world." (Applause.)

A Crack Regiment.

"We hope to have the 104th a crack regiment, one of the best of all the regiments engaged in the war. Join our ranks. Come with us. The men are coming forward rapidly and I want to tell you that exclusive of what you may do here tonight we will by Saturday night have 800 men in the ranks. I appeal to you to cast aside all material things, for this is a time when it matters little what material things you have in the future of this country is at stake, when the future of the Empire is in the balance and it depends on the men of this country whether that balance shall incline to the right or the left to freedom or slavery. Prove tonight whether you are worthy of your ancestors who came to this country with the Loyalists."

"I claim a part of that ancestry. In 1783 my ancestors came here and on the rocky promontory, which is now St. John, fashioned for themselves homes in the wilderness. Later they moved to a farm on the Hammond Road and am proud to say that still I have in my veins Loyalist blood and it burns within me when I think of the sacrifices in comparison to theirs? Yet they did it and for pure duty. Will you follow suit? Will you join the 104th tonight? There are enough young men of fighting age here tonight to fill that regiment to its limit."

Merit Only Will Count.

"You people know me, you have known me as a strong political partisan. I have been, but I have fought fair. I never struck a man below the belt. I have been content to take hard blows and have taken many and have been able to give some in return. But this is no time for politics and there will be no politics in my regiment; there will be neither class nor creed. Merit alone will count for promotion. You see these officers on the platform. Let me tell you that with the exception of Col. Gunning, second in command, and whose presence in the regiment I greatly appreciate, every officer on this platform holds a provisional commission. What does that mean? It means that every officer has got to make good or he can't go with the 104th. I have no more to say to you except again to extend the invitation to come with us."

Col. Fowler was greeted with cheers and applause when he concluded his address.

The police magistrate then arose in the audience and said he had known Col. Fowler many years and although he did not belong to his lodge he found him a white man. He called upon his co-religionists to heed Col. Fowler's call and enlist in the 104th.

Lieut. Barnes.

The chairman in introducing Lieutenant Barnes told of him giving up his business in Hampton, resigning his captaincy and enlisting as a private in the 55th Battalion, from which regiment he was taken by Colonel Fowler and given a Lieutenantcy in the 104th. Lieut. Barnes said in part: "By enlisting in the 55th Battalion as a private I only did what I thought was my



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duty. My boy showed me the way by enlisting in an artillery unit last Christmas. He is now at the front. After thirteen months of inactivity I couldn't hold back any longer, so I enlisted with the 55th and spent seven weeks with that unit as a private. "While in Valcartier with Colonel Kirkpatrick's command I got much useful information and am really glad that I had the privilege of serving as a private. "No young man need hold back because of the idea that he will not be used well. I think the soldiers in the Canadian divisions have about the best time they ever had. You young men should have enlisted six months ago. Don't let it be said that you did not enlist at all. After this war there will be a new standard for judging men, it will be those who went when their country needed them, and those who stayed at home and let the other fellow do the fighting. "Boys get into khaki, join the 104th and you will never be sorry for it."

Sergeant Knight.

The next speaker was Sergeant Knight, he said in part: "I am very glad to be here tonight. The only thing that causes me a pang and makes me feel sorry is the fact that I see before me the faces of many young men who promised me when I was here before that they would enlist in the next battalion that formed in the province and they have not kept their word."

"Not the sooner we draw the line of distinction between the worker and the shouter, the sooner we will start to get results. We need the men. I know it. You know it. I have tried to get back to the front. I have offered my services in any capacity, but the doctors say I am not fit. Now fellows, if a cripple like me is willing to go back, what about you chaps who are in good physical shape, holding back. You are not worthy of the good red blood that your fellow men are shedding for you, on the battlefields of Europe."

"You have all read of the heroic death of your fellow to avenge her death? A short time ago another woman, a French woman, died in the same way as Miss Cavell, and every Frenchman of military age is at the front to protest against this sort of treatment of the women."

"Men of the empire, young men of St. John, the difference between you and the Frenchmen is that everyone of them is at the front to protect their loved ones, and you are not. "Don't anybody tell me there are no more men. I see before me a sea of faces of young men of military age. True, some of you are unfit but 90 per cent. of you are fit and have no good reason for not being in the service of the king."

"In Serbia tonight 162,000 women are in the trenches, fighting side by side with the men. They are fighting for you, who are afraid to fight for yourself. "Will you let your women fight? By your reticence you are making this thing possible. Are you doing one thing tonight that you should not be doing? We have at this meeting secured the names of seventy-one fellows who have red blood in their veins; we want one hundred. Are we going to get the other twenty-nine? The number enlisted includes Carleton Cornet Band that has volunteered to go. We should get the hundred asked for without the band. Do not run away with the idea that the band is going over there simply to blow instruments, such is not the case. If you go and happen to be knocked over with a shell, it is their duty to carry you from the field. They have good work to do and have showed themselves ready to do it. "However, it doesn't make any dif-

ference to you what their work is or what the work of the 104th will be if you are a slacker. If you are wishing to win the respect and esteem of your fellowmen and women you must plunge in now and go your bit. There is only one excuse for your not wearing the khaki, and that is the blue enlistment form marked 'Unfit' by the doctor. "The boys in the trenches are waiting for you to come to their assistance what are you going to do about it? If you fail to answer the call you are not fit to have that liberty you now enjoy. Tonight the opportunity is before you to do your duty, and your duty tonight is to enlist. We want your decision now. I want the first man to volunteer and come on the platform now."

In answer to Sergeant Knight's appeal some ten or twelve men left the audience and came forward to the platform. Among the number was one United States citizen, born at Canadian parents. During the course of his remarks Sergeant Knight told of the presence on the platform of Joseph Knowles, father of the first member of the 26th to lose his life. The sergeant paid a high tribute to the boy and said that the father had told him that he would sooner see his son dead than living.

The Procession.

The recruiting work began about half past seven, when processions started from the various parts of the city, converging on Queen's rink, where the meeting was held. The 42nd Regiment band headed the South End group, the City Cornet Band those from the East End, the Carleton Cornet Band—now the band of the 104th Battalion—those from the West End, and the artillery bugle band the men from Fairville. To the North End contingent, however, belonged the honor of escorting Col. Fowler to the rink. The Temple Band and the St. John Brass Band assembled at the residence of J. K. Scamell, opposite Riverview Park, where Col. Fowler dined, and then, joined by the Fairville

contingent, including some of the men from the siege battery from Partridge Island, and a detachment of Boy Scouts, and the members of the various recruiting committees, as well as hundreds of residents of the North End and Fairville, the procession started for the rink, with Col. Fowler in one of the autos which took part in it. From time to time, as the people marched along, red fire was burned on both sides of the streets, so that those in the parade had to march between the lights. As the crowd marched up King street Col. Fowler stopped by the window of Manchester, Robertson, Allison, Ltd., and had the things all explained to him. The Carlton crowd met the North End detachment at the foot of King street and from there the whole parade marched down to the rink together. In front of the rink the street was blocked, but after the auditorium had been filled the most of these went home.

FINAL TEST.

Dr. Burnett, the official medical examiner for the 104th Battalion, will be at the Recruiting office today after 9 a. m. All those who enlisted last night will appear there for examination. Dr. Burnett's examination will be final, and those who are successful in passing will not be called upon for further examination at Sussex.

"Lone Soldiers' Day"

The Loyal Chapter, I. O. O. E., will observe November 2 as "Lone Soldiers' Day." The object is to get parcels to send to soldiers at the front who have no relatives looking after them. All parcels are to be left at the Dufferin Hotel sample rooms.

Thin Soup Stock

If the soup stock is thin, there is nothing that will add more richness of flavor than tomatoes and a good quantity of butter.

WAR CLOUDS ROMANCE OF TSAR'S DAUGHTER AND BULGARIAN HEIR



PRINCESS OLGA OF RUSSIA
The announcement that Prince Boris, the Crown Prince of Bulgaria, will be commander in chief of the Bulgarian army recalls the love affair between him and the Russian Emperor's eldest daughter, the Princess Olga. The engagement has been announced by the Russian press, and, when not officially confirmed, his presence in the royal Russian palace at various times has given color to the romance.

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