

REASONS WHY RECRUITING IS ALMOST AT A STANDSTILL

Mr. H. F. Gadsby Summarizes the Opinions of Candid Critics---Rank and File are Disgusted With the War Scandals---Chicken-Hearted Four-Flushers in Cock-ed Hats Who Put up Excuses---Camp Borden a Million Dollar Mistake.

Ottawa, Sept. 21.—Recruiting is at a practical standstill in Canada and the Government professes to be at a loss to know the reason. Many reasons have been suggested by candid critics. Some of them follow:

Reason No. 1: An impression has got abroad that the Government never intended to recruit 500,000 men anyway. Not long after Premier Borden made the announcement, some of the Government's most influential and wealthy friends declared that it could not be done without seriously weakening the manufacturing industries of the country. It is freely stated that the 500,000 men was only a bluff and that the Government sprung it to stop further bidding.

No Compulsory Element.

Reason No. 2: The registration scheme is said to be another bluff. Up to date the Government has introduced no compulsory element into it. Men may register or not, as they see fit. The government has no idea of doing anything more than the September Morn act—that is to say, shiver on the brink. The chief object of the registration scheme is apparently to mark time. Like the old maid who was once kissed, the Government "likes to talk about it," but that's about as far as it gets. The scheme is in the hands of a Toronto lawyer, now a member of the headquarters staff, who has occupied this non-combatant position since the beginning of the war. The captain was lifted over the heads of 27 senior officers to take this soft snap at four thousand dollars a year. He is now a colonel. The secret is political pull.

Too Many War Scandals.

Reason No. 3: The rank and file are disgusted with the war scandals, the shell profiteers, the Yankee fuse contracts, Sir Sam's precious friend, Col. John Wesley Allison, paper shoes, shoddy uniforms, the Ross rifle, spavined chargers, grafting members of parliament, the procrastinating Davidson Commission and other matters too numerous to mention. What the average citizen of eligible age asks is, why should I go overseas to bleed for my country, and let these brigands stay at home and bleed it?

Reason No. 4: There are too many shining examples of safety first in the higher ranks of the militia to encourage others to risk their lives. Too many church parade heroes being made brigadier generals, too many political colonels raising regiments for others to lead into the danger zone, too many recruiting colonels getting sick leave and chucking the job when their regiments are ordered abroad, too many chicken-hearted four-flushers

in cocked hats putting up excuses that their duty lies at home, too many honorary colonels who get no closer to the war than Piccadilly and the Strand—in short, too many slackers in high places drawing down big pay for taking care of their own hides.

Thrown to the Birds.

Reason No. 5: Camp Borden. Another million dollars thrown to the birds. A sand-blown, sun-scorched heath, where discipline can only be preserved by giving half the men week end leave turn about. As many as 20,000 men have been absent from the Camp on four days leave at one time. There are 2,000 deserters.

The camp is to be vacated by the middle of October, leaving it to the ravages of winter weather.

The chances are that next spring will find it a desolate scene of rack and ruin. The only real purpose it seems to have served was the holding of a ceremonial parade at which Major General Sir Sam Hughes took the salute from 30,000 dust-choked soldiers for the benefit of the moving picture machine. The films are now being exhibited in England with a view to boosting Sir Sam, but the Government evidently considers it bad policy to show them in Canada.

The Duke's Departure.

Reason No. 6: Scurvy treatment of the Duke of Connaught, who had promised to stay with us until the end of the war, but who felt constrained to leave because his valuable military knowledge and advice would have a better opportunity at home. His Royal Highness was so beleaguered and beset by Sir Sam's jealousy, so headed off in his good intentions that he came to be known as the Duke of Cannot. This bon mot is of Sir Sam's own making.

Reason No. 7: Great dissatisfaction is expressed at the Pension Board. This institution is not only bone-headed, but is afflicted almost beyond belief with the red tape worm. It seems to operate on the general principle that widowed mothers, bereaved wives and permanently disabled heroes should be kept out of their pensions as long as possible. Moreover, the pensions are scaled on the English plan—the officers get the big end—which does not apply well in a democratic country where Jack is as good as his master. As a matter of fact there are many Canadian soldiers in the ranks who have as good a social position in civil life, if not a better one, than the officers who are put over them.

There is a wide-spread feeling that the pensions should be equalized—that

is to say, the same disability should get the same pension, whether a colonel or a private suffers it.

Recruiting Officers.

Reason No. 8: The irresponsible character of certain of the recruiting officers. Instead of arguing this point out, let me cite an instance which will be recognized readily by people who live in Cobourg or thereabouts.

To that part of the country came somewhere about the year 1899 an aristocratic drifter from England with a Bertie-of-the-Guards lisp. He played the organ and had a light, clear, bathroom tenor voice. Between the two he made a living. In 1902 he moved west and tried his hand as farmer, but found it harder work than playing the organ and moved back again. The war found him tickling the ivories. He was one of the first to spring to the colors—and he made a good spring and landed as a captain, though he had never had a day's drill or taken a short course to qualify. However, he knew the manual—of the pipe organ—and his friends let it go at that.

But he had no intention of stiffening his joints and spilling his touch in the trenches. His job was that of recruiting officer and he continued to play the organ on Sundays and the typewriter in the armories on week days, making good money by holding down both jobs.

In the spring of 1916 his regiment went overseas—but not the captain. He couldn't be away from town and play the organ, and he is still engaged in playing and recruiting. None of that stinking gunpowder for the captain!

Recruits Came High.

The captain is a good spender, and when he hasn't got it to spend he charges it up. Like Mr. Micawber, he sometimes forgets to pay. Naturally this does not endear him to the community in which he does his recruiting. Judged by results, it costs this country about \$1,000 for every recruit the captain gets.

It's cheap at that. The captain's Vere-de-Vere manner alone is worth the money. Intending recruits have only to listen to him playing the organ, and that settles it—they can't get far enough away.

A story is told of the captain that while on a recruiting errand in a certain village he took dinner at a private house—he is a great diner out—where he was much incensed at the conduct of the son of the house, who had also done khaki, in sitting down before the captain got his legs under the mahogany.

The rage of the captain at the nerve of a mere private in his own father's house eating him to the soup is said to have been terrific. Tchaikowsky's "1812" on the pipe organ could not have been worse.

DIED IN BANGOR.

Mrs. Stairs, Native of York County, N. B., and Moved to Bangor a Year Ago.

(Bangor Commercial.)

Mrs. Margaret Emma Stairs, aged 67 years, died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. A. W. Skillings, Tuesday after an illness of nearly a year. Mrs. Stairs was born in Southampton, N. B., and made her home in that place nearly all her life. She moved to Bangor about a year ago to live with her daughter.

She was a member of the Baptist church at Temperance Vale, York Co., N. B. During her short stay in Bangor Mrs. Stairs has made a number of friends who will learn with deep regret of her death. She is survived by her husband, Mr. Daniel Stairs, five daughters, Mrs. William Miller, of Philadelphia; Mrs. A. L. Crepps, of Greenville, Me.; Mrs. H. T. Johnson, of Kineo; Mrs. A. W. Skillings, Bangor; Mrs. John Black, Holtville, N. B.; one son, Charles G. Stairs, of Pokok, N. B.; one sister, Mrs. Hepsey King, Woodstock, N. B., and one brother, Gilbert Grey, of Lower Southampton, N. B. The interment will be in Temperance Vale, N. B.

BATTLE IN DOBRUDJA CONTINUES

Roumanians Report the Repulse of Attacks by Germans and Bulgars.

Bucharest, Sept. 21.—The battle in Dobrudja between the Danube and the Black Sea continues with intensity along the whole line, and the official announcement today says that the Roumanians and Roumanians have repulsed the Germans and Bulgarians in all the attacks they have delivered, inflicting severe losses on them.

NEW CHIEF OF STAFF.

Gen. Duport Takes Place of Gen. Jean C. Graziani in French Ministry of War.

Paris, Sept. 21.—General Pierre G. Duport has been appointed chief of the headquarters staff of the army at the Ministry of War in place of General Jean Cesar Graziani, who has retired on account of ill-health.

General Duport was a colonel at the outbreak of the war and rapidly won his way to the command of an army corps.



We'll Never Let The Old Flag Fall

The Kilties Are Coming

The recruiting campaign for the 236th Overseas Battalion (The New Brunswick Kilties, Sir Sam's Own), will be officially opened throughout this province on Monday, September 25th.

This Battalion will be mobilized in Fredericton and it is up to Fredericton and York County to do their share in filling up the ranks.

The official figures show 1,402 men in Fredericton, and 4,506 men in York County, of military age, who have not even tried to enlist. This record is not one that the young men of Fredericton and York County should allow to exist. It sounds bad, doesn't it?

LIEUT.-COLONEL P. A. GUTHRIE, THE KILTIES' OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS

have all been to the front. Every officer who will lead the Kilties into action has faced the enemy before in France or Flanders.

Doesn't this seem like the kind of a unit to join? Think it over now, and be ready for the

BIG OPENING RECRUITING MEETING FOR THE KILTIES IN FREDERICTON ON

MONDAY, Sept. 25th

FOLLOW THE CROWD ON THAT EVENING TO

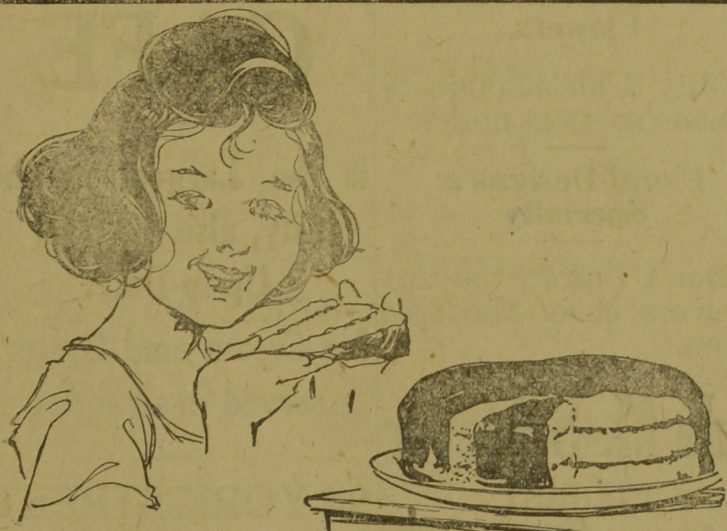
CITY HALL SQUARE

Open air meeting, if possible. If the weather is unfavorable the meeting will be held in the City Opera House.

Lieut. Colonel Guthrie will be one of the speakers. You should be one of those who enlist that night. No long speeches.

This is a time for action, not words.

JOIN THE KILTIES OR GET AN A. R. BUTTON



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The Bake-Day Smile!

Supreme Chocolate is a pure, unsweetened, cooking chocolate, easily melted and mixed, containing that rich chocolate flavour that can only be obtained from the finest cocoa beans. For icing and filling cakes on bake day—a pleasant surprise awaits you, write for Cowan's Dainty Recipe Book and try out the recipes—mailed free.

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