

## ENLISTING IS THE PLAIN DUTY OF CITIZENSHIP

A few months ago Lord Roberts made a speech at Manchester in which he issued so plain a warning as to Germany's intentions that he was described by many as an ill-balanced alarmist.

"Arm and prepare to quit yourselves like men," he abjured the nation, "for the time of your ordeal is at hand."

How well the veteran soldier knew what he was talking about it is unnecessary to point out now. All over the Empire citizens are preparing themselves to discharge their duties as part of the force defending their territory and their institutions. It would have been very much better if in time of peace they had paid heed to what men like Lord Roberts have been saying for many years but they will still be able to accomplish much in the cause of public safety.

The last paragraph of that Manchester speech should be borne in on every Britisher at the moment and not be forgotten when the present stress is relieved.

"I have commanded your armies in peace and in war," declared Lord Roberts, "and I say to you, the young men of this city, and of this nation, that your enfranchisement is not complete until you have become soldiers as well as citizens, prepared to attest your manhood on the battlefield as well as at the election booths."

The call has gone forth for further enlistment in Edmonton in order that the city may be prepared for any emergency that may arise. In such a situation we would do well to keep the simple and direct language just quoted before all who are fit to take their part.

We need a crisis, apparently, to make us realize what our duty is in this connection. But should it not be plain no matter what the conditions of the moment? If armed force is required for the protection of our liberties, should not every citizen be expected to do his part in the providing of this?

Lord Roberts takes the highest ground in urging enlistment. There are some who offer themselves simply because the fighting instinct is in their blood. Many of them would be glad of the chance to see action, no matter what the cause they are serving. There are plenty of soldiers of fortune left in the world.

But the great majority of people regard war altogether differently. Their habits are those of peace and it is with regret that they abandon these. If they had their way, there would be no more war and in the present instance it is because it is certain that the triumph of Great Britain would lessen the evils and the burdens of militarism that they should be willing and anxious to do what they can in assuring that triumph and in, at the same time, protecting their own local and national interests.

We should all feel the necessities of the situation and lose no time in offering to do what we can. The best ideals of citizenship require prompt and general enlistment.

Few men believe that the new forces which are being raised will ever be called upon for active service and those who are leading in the movement to raise these are in no sense alarmists. But no one can tell what the next few months may bring forth and we must be prepared for whatever comes.