

# Col. Penhorwood Says the Hotelmen Broke Agreement

ASKED TWENTY-FOUR HOURS' GRACE AND TOOK ACTION IN THE INTERVAL—HOTELMEN AND PROHIBITIONISTS SHOULD NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST RECRUITS—WILL TAKE THE MATTER BEFORE COMMISSION

Considerable enthusiasm prevailed at the Victoria Theatre last night, when the west end Italians met to bid farewell to the fifty reservists who left on the noon train today to fight for the cause of liberty. Although the hall was not crowded the attendance was good, and during the evening those who are going overseas gave vent to unrestrained feeling when sentiment expressed from the platform caught their fancy. Probably the most interesting speech of the evening was delivered by Lieut. Col. Penhorwood, of the 51st Soo Rifles, who took up the difficulty now existing between the militia and the hotelmen, and explained it from his standpoint. He was preceded by Father Fawcett, of the Sacred Heart Parish, who in a short address said he was pleased that all those present were fighting in a common cause.

Col Penhorwood said he was sorry that he had been detained, but was glad that he had not missed the opportunity to address the men who were going overseas to fight for a cause that was good. The men were fighting for their own land as well as their adopted land. He referred to the criticism which had been directed toward the officers of the regiment, and said that he was prepared to go overseas whenever the Militia Department saw fit to release him from his present duties. He thanked Rev. Father McMennamin and his flock in the city for the assistance given.

"In no case," said Col. Penhorwood, "has he or his following failed. You Italians leave tomorrow. I hope to God that I will follow you soon."

Col. Penhorwood dwelt at some length on the service that Father McMennamin had lent in recruiting among his flock. It was not the cause of the allies that civilized people were fighting for but the cause of God and humanity. He said that the Germans expected to get their war expenses from the country they conquered. He touched on the strenuous effort made by himself and his officers to meet the last train leaving the Sault with Italian reservists. Col. Penhorwood was then at Thessalon. "We said we would bust the car to get there," he said, "and we got there and shook out all by the hand."

In advising the reservists to be kind to their enemies Col. Penhorwood said that 1,400 alien enemies who had been brought up for examination before the militia authorities had been allowed their parole and had been permitted to go out and earn a living for themselves and families. He admonished the Italians to use the same degree of kindness in dealing with their home associations. "Use them as one Christian should use another," he said. "Don't take an example from the Germans."

In regard to the closing several of the local bars insofar as the soldiers are concerned Col. Penhorwood said:

"On this important question I don't go behind anybody's back but I stand behind the public of Sault Ste. Marie and say this, that I will go with a friend of mine and take a drink, and there's nobody shall say what I shall do. The hotelmen cannot tell me what I can eat or drink. Neither can the prohibitionists. Neither shall they dictate to me. I'm open and aboveboard, and I'll attend to the interests of my men irrespective of hotelmen or prohibitionists. If I'm wrong in this regard God is my judge. We have in our regiment the best men in the district, and apparently the whole regiment is defamed by the hotelmen because one, two or three men have fallen by the wayside of the liquor traffic. I will recite an accident of a man confined to barracks because of drunkenness. He came to me, put his hand in mine, said he was through with liquor and I gave him his liberty. Tomorrow it is my intention to make a lance corporal of that man."

"I am not in favor of total prohibition," said the Colonel "particularly in a border town, but I don't believe the hotelmen should tell me what I should do. When the question came up I consulted my officers. They are not prohibitionists—infact but two among them are—and they thought it would be a hardship to cut the liquor out entirely. Three hotels however came under the ban. We had the evidence and had the goods on them. They were selling liquor to intoxicated men and were selling liquor by the bottle. They thought they could use us to pull the chestnuts out of the fire. We had a meeting of the hotelmen and put the question up to them. We told them that three hotels were to be put out of business. The hotelmen asked for 24 hours' grace. Their life was at stake. During this time, during which I had arranged that the cards be not placed on the hotels, they cut the saloons out. If a soldier has stamina enough to go to the front there's nothing too good for him. Why should the hotelmen and the prohibitionists come out and discriminate against him? All citizens should be treated alike. I will go before the commission, hand them this stuff, and ask whether citizens should have the preference over soldiers. I say it is the soldiers who should have the preference. I can buy all the whisky I want and drink it in my home, but when the King took the prohibition stand I took the same stand in my household. The time is not far distant when citizens and soldiers will be placed on an equal footing."

Col. Penhorwood spoke of the time two months ago when, as he said, the officers of the regiment were charged with being habitual drunkards. An investigation proved that this was not the case. "I have known the hotelmen of this city for 31 years," said the Colonel, "and I have been friendly with them all, but I will not

permit them to discriminate against my boys. I followed out the intention I had when the hotelmen told me they wanted 24 hours to consider my proposition. Thank God I don't owe anything to the hotelmen for handing over bottles of booze to the men on Government pay who took no money home to their wives and families. As long as I am head of the 51st regiment my career, private, personal and political, is in the hands of the people of Sault Ste. Marie, even if I am crucified."

Continuing the Colonel said the officers were charged with graft, and that he was getting \$25 a day for recruiting. "If I ever get it I'll hand it over to the patriotic society, he said. "The Government has not given us one cent for this purpose. I only wish that I had the money I have put into the Red Cross fund, and I would be considerably ahead. We buy from the best man with the best price, whether he be green, black, red or white, grit or tory, and if I hear of my officers doing anything else that officer will go elsewhere."

Col. Penhorwood exhorted the men going to the front to take care of their savings, and to behave themselves. He explained the uses of the patriotic fund, and in concluding his address said: "As long as a dollar remains in the exchequer of the 51st regiment your wives and families need not suffer."

Rev. Father Martinez, of the Holy Rosary Church, addressed his flock in Italian, exhorting them to adhere to the traditions of the Italian army, and to return to the Sault with souvenirs from the Italian provinces now dominated by Austria.

Rev. Father McMennamin, of the Sacred Heart Parish, wished the reservists Good-speed. "Italy has no reason to hold down her head," he said. "She was ready to fill the gap that Britain found in her lines. Italians were born with enthusiasm for their native country. Col. Penhorwood says he was born in Wales and is proud of it. I was born in a better place—in Canada. This is God's war. When God is on our side we don't care who is against us. I endorse Col. Penhorwood's remarks on the liquor question, and I will take up arms under his standard and if necessary bring my whole congregation with me."

Father McMennamin spoke of the freedom permitted the Italians in Canada. "You can wave your flag," he said "without restraint, and if you happen to get tired I'll help you. The German-Gag will never exist at Ottawa."

Mayor McPhail wished the citizens of Canada, but natives of Italy, a safe journey and an early return. Another substantial Italian contingent was setting an example among men of military age. Apparently every man of military age was going to front "to shoot a Dutchman." He was pleased that the Italians were heading straight for Vienna. They were not taking a devious route. The Trentino and Trieste were now part of Austria, but the Italian dawn is breaking. Italian reservists leaving the Sault, he said, were an advertisement for Canada.

Addresses were delivered during the evening by Rev. F. Cingolani, Italian Presbyterian Minister, Rev. Father Fawcett, Captain H. Sargeant, Captain J. B. Way, and the Royal Italian Consular agent Wm. Grassi.

Before the meeting closed with "God Save the King," Col. Penhorwood stated that 150 overseas men and 100 of the local service corps would in the morning escort the Italian reservists to the train.

Zinc in large quantities is reported to have been discovered in the vicinity of Hurbridge Lake, in the upper Gatineau district.

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