

# RECRUITING PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

## Major Kerby and Recruiting Officers Hold a Con- ference

### NEW METHODS MUST SOON BE ADOPTED

## Badges Will Be Secured For the Men Turned Down

Major Kerby, chief recruiting officer for the province, yesterday afternoon, at the Macdonald Hotel, held a conference with recruiting officers in the city to ascertain progress made since the recruiting campaign was set on foot.

From reports made it would seem that in some instances the number of recruits gained during this period has been satisfactory, while in other cases there is reason for improvement. They showed, also, that efforts must not be relaxed, but strengthened if anything like the required number of recruits are to be secured.

Those present were Captain Duclos, recruiting officer for the city; Captain Rendell, 124th Batt. (Highlanders); Captain Lund, 197th Batt. (Scandinavian); Lieut. Campbell, 138th Batt.; Lieut. Shannon, 218th Batt. (Irish Guards); Lieut. Chapman, 202nd Batt. (Sportsmen); and Sergeant W. J. Trott, 211th Batt. (American Legion).

Capt. Duclos reported as to the number of meetings that had been held in various places of business in the city, and said that arrangements for others were under way.

#### Had Secured All Willing.

Captain Rendell said that they had secured 40 men, and about 2-3rds of these had come in as the result of the meetings held. He thought that they had secured all the men willing to come in, and now they had to get after those who must be forced to leave jobs to join. Something had been said about the government retaining single men in their jobs, but it was the men, but the heads of departments. The government had told the heads that they could let men go, but they must not do so and stop the work, so that the onus of keeping the men rested on the heads. Capt. Rendell alluded to the excuse given that it would take too long to train men to fill positions if others were let out, but they considered that this excuse was not valid, and the length of training required was exaggerated. For instance, there were 15 men in the Post Office who should join at once, and there were also 23 men in the city fire department. In certain departments the heads were at liberty to fill the places of the single men with others ineligible for service, and even with women if they could do the work.

#### To Get Lists of Civic Employees.

Captain Duclos said that they were to receive a list of all civic employees who were eligible for enlisting, and they were going to endeavour to get these men replaced with others. There was some difficulty with the street railway, where some discharges might be expected in the future, owing to the reduction of the street railway service. Owing to the agreement existing with the city and the street railway employees, discharges would be by seniority, and in this case men let out would be all married men. It was a difficulty for which some arrangement would have to be made.

Capt. Lund reported that the Scandinavians had secured 15 men. Lieut. Chapman stated that about ten had joined the 202nd Battalion, and Lieut. Shannon stated that the Irish Guards had signed on about 24.

Lieut. Campbell said that the 138th Battalion had not been very successful, because his staff had been recalled, and they had only just returned to the city. They were now located in premises on Jasper and had enlisted about 10 new men.

Sergeant Trott said that the American Legion had enlisted 13 in all, only three that he could trace directly to the meetings held.

#### Badges for Rejected Men.

Major Kerby brought up the question of a badge for men who had been

turned down, as this campaign had its effect, not only upon those who enlisted, but also those who had to stay at home. He knew that they had such a badge at British Columbia, and there was a report that its use had been authorized by the militia department at Ottawa. They had soon to arrive at something definite about the badge as those who had been turned down should have some distinguishing badge.

It was decided that arrangements should be made for the use of such a badge.

### **Not Much Help From Churches**

Capt. Duclou reported that he had

written to the churches with the idea of enlisting their aid for meetings, but without any great success. Out of 34 only about 11 churches had replied, and they were not very favorable.

Major Kerby said that at Calgary meetings had been held at all the churches. He would suggest that they go to the ministerial association at Edmonton and endeavor to work through them. He considered that it would be better than going to individual churches.

Capt. Duclos and Lieut. Campbell were appointed as a committee to interview the heads of the ministerial association on the matter.

### **Future Activities**

A letter was read from Pte. W. J. Broomfield, who is at Jasper Park internment camp, saying that he had heard that a new Foresters' Battalion was being formed and if so, he and other returned soldiers were ready to again take part in the fight for freedom. An answer will be returned to the effect that no Foresters Battalion is contemplated but that recruiting is going on for other regiments.

Capt. Lund drew attention to men working on the grade. A number of these men were eligible, but they were drawing good wages and would not enlist. He suggested that representations might be made to the railway companies that these men should be substituted by alien enemies who would be paid a very low wage only.

Major Kerby promised to see what could be done in this direction.

Capt. Rendell said that pressure should be brought upon the post office. Ten men had enlisted from his late department in the post office, and their places were filled with single men and had been ever since.

Major Kerby remarked that all the recruiting work was leading up to a climax and sentiment was growing in favor of compulsion.

### **Talk of Military Census**

Referring to the project of taking a military census to find out eligibles, Major Kerby said that this would be in the hands of business men and the military authorities would not receive the registration until complete. The

business men would organize the thing from a citizens' point of view.

Capt. Rendell said that he thought they should have another big public meeting as soon as possible in Edmonton.

Major Kerby agreed and said that when the situation was ripe they would have a conference and talk it over. He thought that the meeting of women would have a great effect.

In answer to a question as to the position of single teachers, Major Kerby said that the Calgary school board had passed a resolution that they would not engage or re-engage any single male teacher, unless he could give good and sufficient reasons for not going to the front.

### **Will Visit Summer School**

Capt. Duclos said that they were intending to visit the summer school being held at the university and talk to the students.

Mention was made of the difficulty experienced in getting an audience with the 101st regiment, as they could only talk to the men when about to fall in or dismissing, and then the men would not stand and listen to them. Active recruiting for this regiment, the 19th Dragoons and the reserve militia was also deprecated as it was considered that the overseas forces should always come first, and that boosting for these units injured overseas recruiting work.