

THE OFFER MADE BY THE CHINESE CITIZENS OF EDMONTON

At a meeting of Chinese citizens of Edmonton a resolution was adopted unanimously that, in view of the civil, political and religious equality extended to them in Edmonton, it was the spirit of the meeting and of all Chinamen in the province that they should be permitted to bear a proportionate share in the burden of carrying on the present war. Some fifty of those present declared their willingness and eagerness to enlist.

If their services as private soldiers were not desired, they expressed their willingness to act as chefs, servants or otherwise. They felt that in such capacities they would excel and would "serve the double purpose of supplying the men in the ranks with viands nutritious and pleasing to the taste and also relieve for active service those now necessarily engaged in menial service."

The words quoted are taken from the letter to the commanding officer of the 49th battalion acquainting him with the wishes of the meeting. Lieut.-Colonel Griesbach replied, highly commending the action taken, and, while expressing regret that his battalion was now of full strength, suggested bringing the matter to the attention of the minister of militia.

This has since been done, and there is every probability that means will be found by which the offer of these Canadians of Chinese extraction may be taken advantage of. The spirit which prompts it cannot be too highly praised. The desire to serve the cause in whatever way they can be of most use should be particularly noted. There are others who might profit by the example thus set.

The Chinese of Edmonton have at all times shown that they prize their British citizenship. The unique and handsome arch which they erected across Jasper avenue at the time of the visit of Earl Grey for the laying of the corner-stone of the parliament buildings will be remembered by many, but this latest demonstration of their loyalty is a still more striking one. It should make some of those who have been passing unjust reflections upon them as a race thoroughly ashamed of themselves.