

RECRUITING RALLY.

APPEAL BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL.

The Director-General of Recruiting, Mr. D. Mackinnon, attended by the Organising Secretary for the Queensland Recruiting Committee, Captain E. R. J. Pike, and accompanied by Mr. A. J. de Topor-Markowicz, held a recruiting rally at the Post Office corner at a quarter to nine o'clock on Friday night. The Recruiting Officer for Capricornia (Sergeant J. K. Foster) and several returned non-commissioned officers were also in attendance. Alderman T. W. Kungel presided in the absence of the Mayor, Alderman C. O. Gough.

The Chairman said that Mr. Mackinnon, Captain Pike, and Mr. Topor-Markowicz were present to tell the people of Rockhampton lots of things they either had not heard or could not realise, and he had pleasure in introducing them to so large an audience. (Applause).

Mr. Mackinnon, who was greeted with applause, said that he had been for the last six or eight weeks in many parts of the Commonwealth and had found that the people now were awake to what the war meant to Australia. Their presence in such large numbers that night was but another proof of what he had observed in those other parts. He had been told that he would have only a scratch meeting to address in Rockhampton. If this was a scratch meeting he wondered what a real meeting would be like; it would take a large public square to hold it. He wanted to impress on their minds that the war was not a one-country war. Whether they were Australians, Italians, or French, or belonged to any other civilised nation, they were in it. He would tell them how it stood to-day. Two or three years ago they used to talk about "the great Russian steam roller" which was going to crush down on the east, and, while the British, French, and other Allies held the enemy in check on the west and other fronts, was going to roll over Germany and, wiping her off the map, end the war. But the steam roller had broken up, and Germany was doing what she liked with Russia. And now, unless the Allies beat Germany, they in Australia would know all about it. If all the other Allied people were like those of Australia, Germany would only have to write out its ticket dictating terms of peace. America was not yet quite ready, but in her patriotic preparations she

was not yet quite ready, but in her patriotic preparations she was showing Australia a splendid example. Britain was calling out all her available troops, and France had been bled of her manhood. The whole hope of the Allies was General Foch; but the main strength of the war fell on Britain. People had no doubt read that the advance of the enemy had been arrested and that he had been "stabilised." They should not believe that. The Germans were not going to be stabilised. And the Allies were growing weaker, and weaker, and America might not be able to come in. What had this to do with Australia? What if America could not come in? They knew that the Allies were beaten at Gallipoli, that had the Allies been supported there they would have had Constantinople, that ingress to and egress from the Black Sea through the Dardanelles would have been won, and that they would have had Russia helping them to-day. But the forces there were not supported, and the position to-day was that, that if they were not able to throw in all their aid, Germany would be able, with the assistance of Russia, to beat the world. It was, therefore, imperative that the Australian force of 100,000 men—the flower of the British army—should be reinforced. In April, 1915, the world resounded with the bravery of the Australians and their competency to fight as displayed at Gallipoli and the Aegean Sea, where the forces sent by Australia behaved so magnificently. Wherever the Australians had fought there was not one item in their history with which they had not covered Australia with a fame of the fame of Australians, though they had not always reaped the fame their valorous deeds merited. Then why did the Australians not give them support? (Applause.) As Napoleon's celebrated Old Guard were to him at Waterloo, so were the Australians in this war. (Applause.) The Germans were out for the domination of the world. They had come into the war to win it and dominate the earth for all time. The great body of the German people were under controlling parties. There was the Pan-German party, with its lines of ships, that was out to acquire

coastal ports for shipbuilding and trading to enable Germany to replace Britain's control of the seas. Well Germany had Belgium and wanted to keep it. Then there was the great military party also holding Belgium. The Germans had overrun Europe. They had the Balkans. Rus-

holding Belgium. The Germans had over run Europe. They had the Balkans, Russia, and the whole of the immediate east and there was only a small Anglo-Indian force between them and the Persian Gulf—the key of India. If the Germans won or could get peace on their own terms, they would want £2,000,000,000 from Britain, and they were to get £800,000,000 from Russia, and wanted £400,000,000 from Rumania. What price Australia if they wanted £400,000,000 from Rumania? (Applause.) Yet they were asked to make peace with these people. What price peace with Britain's demand for simple justice? (Applause.) Russia had peace and she was in pieces. (Applause.) And America and Britain were asked to take Germany's dirty hand in the grasp of peace. He (Mr. Mackinnon) was in Belgium in 1918, and saw a happy and industrious people, the men tilling their good lands, and, with the aid of their women, cultivating the flowers which made ornamental and cosy their comfortable homes. Now the Germans were there. If the lands were being tilled now it was by enslaved Belgian men for the benefit of their military masters; the old men and children were neglected to make them die out; their women were outraged and their beautiful temples were desecrated and destroyed. Shake hands with them! How could Britishers shake hands with men, who, having submarined a British ship, rescued the British seamen with the same submarine for the purpose of drowning them as the vessel submerged, the officers and crew watching and jeering them as they slowly drowned? (Murmurs of "Dreadful!" and "Horrible!") The Germans bombed from their airships the base hospitals where the Australian and other wounded soldiers were first cared for, and where first aid was rendered by gentle nurses and Sisters of Mercy, yet they were asked to shake hands with them and to end the war! Having paid a warm tribute to the sacrifices the women of all classes in England were making and the work they were doing to help their men to win the war, Mr. Mackinnon called attention to the spontaneity that characterised the response of Americans to President Wilson's decision to set aside America's policy of aloofness from European troubles and come into the war for the maintenance of the civilisation of the Christian world. The Americans, he said, did not squabble over it when they found that their President was not merely an academician in world politics, but to a man enthusiastically decided to follow him. He

enthusiastically decided to follow him. He (Mr. Mackinnon) would ask them to keep America's example in their memory, and at the same time, to remember that beautiful land of France, which was being ruthlessly devastated, where the people saw their beautiful churches—the joy of a highly refined, brave, and poetical people; churches which had taken years to build—wiped out in a single day. Why should Australians leave it to Americans to do their fighting for them and for the maintenance of the good wages and hours of labour and numberless pleasures and comforts enjoyed by them? He appealed to the people of Queensland to bestir themselves and to do something more than they had yet accomplished to aid in winning the war. No country was getting more profit from the war than Australia. And Queensland was getting most profits which alone were going largely to pay the high wages ruling here, and Queensland at the present time was doing less than any of the states in the way of providing recruits. Queensland did well at first, but latterly she had been falling behind, and some of her battalions would have to fall out shortly for want of recruits. The Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Watt, had been asked in Parliament what had become of the Thirty-sixth, Forty-seventh, and Fifty-second Australian regiments, two of which were Queensland regiments, and his reply was "They

have been scrapped." It was their duty to see that more men went forward to keep up the strength of the regiments. A gentleman well informed on this matter had told him to tell the people of Queensland that their regiments would disappear from the war for want of recruits, and were likely to be scrapped or thrown into reserves. So they should bestir themselves for the honour and glory of Queensland. This was one of the wide states with all sorts of opportunities for rich development, and surely they were not going to risk losing that which their fathers had gained and created and had left them to maintain and uphold? The women could help. They could ask the young men and married men to go, as the Government was asking them. The old men were not being asked because this was particularly a young men's war. If there were any young men in the audience with time to spare to get into this adventure the time was now. He thanked them for coming along to hear him. He felt and knew, that he was addressing the descendants of an adventurous people, and he would ask them not to let it be said that their fathers who left a colder and more foggy climate for this warmer

and more foggy climate for this warmer and sunnier land had here begotten a race colder blooded than ever they knew how to be. (Applause.) When hereafter they would be able to say that Australia had stood beside Britain as the champion of civilisation and right, it would be the proudest thing in the history of their country. (Applause.) He (Mr. Mackinnon) was speaking as a native of Australia, he felt proud to say. (Applause.)

Captain Pike gave a vivid description of his observations in England and at the front. He had seen countries desecrated by Germany's supermen. He had seen English women busily engaged in making children's clothes for babies to be born of Belgian nuns outraged deliberately by German soldiers for the purpose of keeping up the German population. This was what it would mean, too, in Australia if Germany gained Australia. After giving a lot of facts and figures in support of his statements, Captain Pike begged his audience to do its best to see that Queensland did not let her regiments down and to aim at letting it go down to history that Australia had won the war with her volunteer army. (Applause.)

Mr. Topor-Markowicz asserted that Germany was trying to get the whole world under her domination, her military rule. Germany's history as a conquering people for four centuries was so hateful that it would be an insult to pigs to call the Germans swine. (Laughter and applause.) If Germany dared to speak of peace with annexation where would they in Australia be? Some shot, some imprisoned, and some made to work as slaves for their German rulers. Under German conquest the conquered had to do the heavy work, the women were raped, and the old men were left to die out quickly. He (Mr. Topor-Markowicz) could tell them how captured women had gone mad in German trenches. The morning after the capture of women by Germans a German trench was taken, and in it they found, what? Something too awful to describe—a captured woman lying dead, pegged down to the ground, dead from bruises and violation. He warned Australians that Germany knew more about Australia and its resources and capabilities than Australians; that Germany wanted Australia and intended to have it; and that she had from 10,000,000 to 12,000,000 German people ready to come here to replace or dominate the paltry 5,000,000 Australians who were holding as their own one of the richest places in the world. "You think," said the speaker, "that you will fight if they come here. Where will you fight?

Will the speaker, that you will fight if they come here. Where will you fight? In the bush? (Laughter and applause.) The men whom you have fighting over there are the fathers of your future generations, and they are dying; and they will come back blind and maimed and shattered, and you will tell them 'Oh, you have done fine.' And they will tell you men that you are worse than Germans. They will say 'You are not of our breed.' This is a war, not of a class, nor of a state, nor of a nation. It is a war of all civilisation, and you are being asked to go where you will be taken by the hand to help in the deathless struggle for the preservation of all that civilised people hold dear. And it is a fine life. You know nothing, absolutely nothing. Your life out here is like that of the worm vegetating down below. (Hear, hear.) A man may think his cobbler is doing the fighting, and he may duck, but

he gets over the feeling and does not duck any more. I have known men who have since won distinction who, at first, were shaking with fright; but they were men. They got over it, and now regard the daily incidents as a joke. They go into the fight with a joke—sometimes a joke about some of you who talk of freedom in a pub and hide behind." (Hear, hear, laughter, and applause.) Mr. Topor-Markowicz gave a description of the bravery and patriotism of the Serbian Army, he having had the honour of fighting side by side with Serbians in one of their regiments. He told of 20,000 Serbians facing 400,000 Germans fighting and retreating, and, when beaten, their starving women giving the soldiers their last mouldy crust and begging them to get away to safety to recuperate their strength and breed up a new generation to come along and win back their beloved country. The speaker's final words were an appeal to the patriotism and sense of honour of his hearers to support the great struggle with recruits.

Sergeant Foster, having congratulated the people on having had the case for recruiting put before them so well, made an appeal for recruits.

His appeal was supported by Alderman Kingel.

Three men offered, one of whom, being a returned soldier and unfit, was refused.

The singing of the National Anthem concluded the proceedings.