

AUX ARMES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Australians! Do you want to become a military nation by forcing your statesmen to bring in conscription? Then stay at home. Do you believe in the voluntary system, breaking down of militarism? Do you believe in Right against Might? Do you want to prove to the world that your greatest efforts are to secure a lasting peace; force a general disarmament and give a chance to human toil to secure the fruits of its labour? Then enlist now! We require all our moral and physical courage. But we can do it. Proclamations by the Allies are to secure a lasting peace and free the world from armaments' insane craze. This should be the greatest incentive for all classes to make a superhuman effort to end for ever the present outburst of fanatical racial destruction raging over Europe.

Come at once! Now is the time to do it. Do not lag behind. It is no want of courage that keeps you here. I know you better; it is indifference. I have heard the expression everywhere. "The boys are doing well; they will pull through." They will; but you can save thousands of those brave men's lives, you can shorten the struggle considerably, you can relieve much suffering and misery, by enlisting now. There is danger—great danger—for civilisation, freedom, and justice.

Come now! As I am writing I see wrecked Belgium and unhappy Serbia, a sea of humanity calling to heaven to relieve their burning, intense suffering, women with babies in their arms, the picture of despair, calling to you to deliver them from this hell on earth. Act at once! Say "I am coming. I will relieve you or die in the attempt!"

Come on, every one who possibly can! I am not asking you to go while I stay behind. I am a fully-trained man five years in the French Foreign Legion, a dozen scraps in South American repub-

dozen scraps in South American republics. I hate militarism because of my knowledge of its fanatical rivalry, its sense of superiority through increased armaments, the cruelty and slavery inflicted under the principles of discipline, the absolute surrender of freedom of thought or action under its rule. But we must fight to-day to crush this tyrant, to destroy and pulverise this cancer, the greatest scourge that ever visited this planet, and to this end is the Call To Arms. On the 21st of this month you will see a Russian by birth, but a lover of liberty, married, and father, asking the recruiting sergeant at Rockhampton for a rifle to defend your country, humanity, and justice.

Come on now ! To Arms ! To Servia !

ANDRE TOLSTOI.

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Rockhampton.

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