

## Reservists Depart Amongst Plaudits of the People.

### Stirring Scenes in City & Environs.

#### Food Supplies at Famine Prices.

#### Notable Declaration by Major Connellan.

The war fever, which has Europe in its grip, displayed symptoms in Kilkenny this week, when, following the declaration of hostilities by Great Britain, the mobilisation of the local reserve forces was undertaken. On Wednesday last the city was seething with excitement, which was inaugurated by the marching through the different streets of a rifle squad of the Royal Artillery, probably as a demonstration. The post bore a heavy cargo of blue documents, addressed to people who are never heard of except in times of great emergency, and presently the streets were filled with wailing women and children, whose husbands and fathers were called upon to fulfil their obligations, not to defend England, but to help that country in its war against Germany. Sympathy with the French race is a mere figment of the imagination, though at the same time, it is a pretext for blood-letting.

#### SOME SAD SIGHTS.

Passing down Rose-Inn-St and John St., one saw some curious sights. Men with the military stamp upon them, were followed by women bearing the modest kit, consisting generally of a pair of "ammunition" boots and a change of underwear of which paper parcels made no mystery, and, saddest sight of all, lugging at the coat tails of those who were going to do or die in a quarrel promoted by an unknown hand, were little children crying plaintively. To say that strong men sobbed at the spectacle, is no excess of language.

#### EXPEDITIOUS MOBILISATION.

The reservists and militia left by different trains during the day—twelve, four-forty, six and nine. At the latter train, such is the altered outlook on English imperial policy, a local brass band (St. Patrick's) played the military to the station, where a scene worth recording occurred. As the train was about to move a friend of one of the soldiers rushed across the platform, and was stopped by a policeman. The soldier in the train made a lethal weapon of his cap, with which he attempted to strike every policeman on the platform, until the momentum of the train made his efforts useless. Foolish chap he was, but goodness knows how many old scores he might have had against the police, and if the soldier fights as well in war as in peace, he will be a valuable adjunct to the company which claims him.

## Departure of the Kilkenny Militia.

### SCENES AT THE RAILWAY STATION.

Unparalleled scenes of excitement were witnessed on Thursday, when the last detachment of the 4th Battalion Royal Irish Regiment, more familiarly known as the Kilkenny Militia, left Kilkenny for Queens-town. The Battalion, numbering about 500, under the command of Col. Mervyn de Montmorency, Major J. E. Poe, and Major Lindsay Knox, J.P., and Captain J. E. Blake-Loftus, J.P., assembled at the Military Barracks, where they had been detained for some time previous to their departure. Shortly before 4 o'clock they marched to the Railway Station, headed by the Pipers' Band of the Regiment, and on the line of march they received encouraging cheers from the spectators. Though the entrances to the station were closed to all save those on business, many of the more adventurous spirits amongst the crowd climbed the walls and reached the station without meeting any further obstruction. Notwithstanding the precautions taken, hundreds of people were present on the platform on the Waterford side, at which the special train drew up, while the crowd outside the entrance gates was even greater. The men entrained at about 4.15 o'clock, and prior to their departure about a quarter of an hour afterwards, there were many pathetic incidents, fathers, mothers, wives and children giving farewell to those of their nearest and dearest who have gone to the seat of war. As the train was leaving the platform loud cheers were raised for John Redmond and the Volunteers, and were heartily responded to by the crowd.

## THE RECRUITING SERGEANT ABROAD.

### IRELAND'S INTEREST IN THE WAR.

Mr. Stephen Gwynn, M.P., writes in the "Freeman":—

There are two or three elements in the present situation which do not seem to be fully apprehended by the general mass of Irishmen—or Irishwomen. The woman's part in this matter is hardly, if at all, less important.

The British army, alone of all the armies now engaged in war, relies, in this war, on a voluntary system of recruiting. Why is it that under this system Ireland has provided only about half her expected proportion of recruits?

There are certain contributory causes. War produces unemployment, and unemployment is a great aid to recruiting. But war does not produce unemployment in the industry of farming, which is Ireland's chief occupation. Moreover even in the parts of England which are chiefly agricultural, much of the land is worked by farmers on the large scale; and the paid labourer is promised special provision for his wife and children if he takes his place in the ranks. The small peasant farmer in Ireland, depending on the labour of himself and his sons, has nothing to look to but the official State provision of assistance; if he goes, or lets his son go, he has to make a much greater sacrifice than the English labourer.

These are strong causes, but they are not the main reason, why Ireland has only twenty-five thousand recruits to show where she ought, if she bore her fair part, to have at least fifty thousand. The main cause is the difference in public feeling and public opinion in the two countries.

It is difficult for a man to come forward in England; it is easy for him in Ireland. We do not hear in Ireland of men who have been refused on medical ground imploring to be provided with a badge to prove they are not shirkers. In Ireland there is no danger of a man's finding himself accused of cowardice; he is in no fear of public opinion. He is protected by the example of other men and by the indifference of the women. The women have not come to feel that the interest and the honour of Ireland are involved. If they did, they would soon make the men feel it. The reason why they did not feel it is, that they are in no fear of the safety of their homes. Wales is further from the immediate danger than England or Scotland; she is out of sound of the firing in the North Sea; she is not driven to watch the sky for Zeppelins; and so the response of Wales to the recruiting sergeant is less than fifty per cent. than that of England and Scotland. Ireland, remoter still from the scene of conflict, behind a second sea-barrier, is scarcely ruffled in her security. Who is to reach her homes? She has entire confidence in the ability of the fleet to do the necessary work of protection; and probably, as a matter of calculation, this opinion is right.

## The Kilkeny Journal.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1914.

### RECRUITING HELD UP IN IRELAND.

On Wednesday the Standing Committee of the National Volunteers issued a statement to the public, that "no proposal, suggestion or offer to arm, equip, or train the Irish Volunteers has been made to them by the Government, and that no person has any authority to hold out to any units of the Volunteer Force that any such proposal suggestion or offer, has been made or accepted." We can understand the latter portion of this announcement. Many well-intentioned people who did not believe it possible that Mr. Redmond's overture to the Government would be rejected, anticipated its immediate acceptance, an assumption to which the Sphinx-like attitude of the Standing Committee gave every appearance of truth. As we have been saying all along, the Government has no intention of arming the National Volunteers until actual necessity dictates that step, just as the Government has no intention of passing Home Rule until the last loophole of escape has been stopped. Six weeks at least must have elapsed since Mr. Redmond made his offer which, while it stirred the English people of all parties with enthusiasm, has left the Government unmoved. During that time both England and France were in peril, and were it not for the defence offered by Belgium, the Germans might by now be in occupation of Ireland. When we consider the barbarities inflicted on even the unresisting portion of the Belgian population, our imagination stands appalled at the prospect of a Prussian invasion of this country. Badly armed, badly drilled, and wholly unacquainted with the art of warfare, the Irish Volunteers would be mowed down like wheat and the country laid waste. Properly equipped and trained, we have a force of men in this country sufficient to guarantee us against even the prospect of invasion. What new game is Mr. Asquith playing? As matters stand now, the only portion of Ireland which is adequately prepared is Ulster. Immediately those preparations were completed, Mr. Asquith's ministry put an Arms Proclamation in force, the plain and naked object of which was to leave his infatuated Irish supporters at the mercy of enemies within our shores, and to compel a defenceless community of his ecstatic admirers to the task of putting Home Rule into operation in the face of armed opposition. This would be a new way of killing Home Rule, and, perhaps, from Mr. Asquith's point of view, absolutely the surest and best means by which a political issue which he has been ever anxious to shirk, would be settled for all time. Mr. Asquith is certainly the coolest of Parliamentary hands. With an effrontery which would do credit to a backwoods American politician, he changes his convictions on the Irish question as occasion demands, trimming his sails to catch every wind that blows. He still believes that the original Bill is "a perfect instrument for the reconciliation of the two countries"—the phrase has grown nauseous,