Daily News & Leader

AUGUST 5, 1914.

MEN RALLYING TO THE COLOURS.

Enormous Crowds Besiege Recruiting Offices.

The rush to the colours by prospective recruits began at an early hour yesterday, and the Central Recruiting Office in Great Scotland Yard was besieged by youths and men anxious to give active service to their country in the present crisis. They filled all the available waiting rooms in the office, and the staff was taxed to the utmost in dealing with the applications. Nothing of the sort has been seen since the time of the Boer War, and there was every indication that the present recruiting will be far in advance of what happened then.

Most of the applicants were little more than youths, but their average physical fitness and character were reported to be very good. Apart from those who were definitely prepared to join the colours right away there were many applicants anxious to know whether they were qualified to enlist and the conditions under which they would be expected to serve. Although it was explained in a large number of cases that their attachment to the particular regiments with which they desired to serve might not be possible, there seemed little disposition to withdraw on that account

From one end to the other Whitehall was thronged with people yesterday, the gatherings outside the War Office and Downing-street being exceptionally large. Crowds assembled outside various barracks in London, and the movements of the military were watched with intense interest. One of the most noticeable things was the manner in which the crowd outside the Wellington Barracks saluted the Guards' colours. There was considerable activity also at the various headquarters of the Territorial battalions, and large crowds outside watched the volunteer army assemble. The 6th Field Ambulance Brigade marched past near Buckingham Palace in full marching order, with waggons and water carts, and a large number of people lined the streets on each side and cheered them as they went by.

TROOPS AT THE OVAL.

It was announced yesterday that the Oval, the famous Surrey cricket ground in South London, was required for military purposes.

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