

revealed the fact that the call for drafts from units at the front amounted in the aggregate to 100 per cent. per annum. Allowing a margin for contingencies, an average weekly supply of 1100 recruits was required to maintain the reserves at an adequate level. The monthly averages of recruits, which in the spring of 1915 exceeded these figures, had in the autumn fallen far below it. A further effort was needed to restore the situation. Activities were started on the 30th October on the issue of a general postal appeal. Opportunity was afforded to recruits to specify the regiments and divisions which they preferred to join. About 60 per cent. of the recruits availed themselves of this privilege. Since the commencement of the campaign to December 18, 1915, 7,444 recruits were enlisted. Thus

In Seven Weeks a Weekly Average of 1063  
Was Obtained.

It is certain that the holiday season and the temporary dislocation caused by the introduction of the Military Service Bill have had an adverse effect from which there are already signs of a definite recovery. That there is still a large reservoir of men cannot be doubted. It is estimated that on August 15, 1915, there were in Ireland 416,409 unmarried males of military age—of these 252,000 were engaged in the agricultural industry. Allowing for subsequent enlistments and rejections there should still be about 400,000 unattested single males of military age, but this number is subject to the usual deductions for men who are indispensable for agriculture and commerce, production of munitions, transport service, etc., and also for men who will be found to be medically unfit. It would be surprising if, after all these deductions were made, the

Balance of Men Available Exceeded 100,000.

Regard must be had to the fact that agriculture is a public service, and that farmers are exhorted to increase the area under tillage, and, further, that the majority of farms are under 15 acres in area. The physical difficulties of making an impression on a scattered population of conservative tendencies still prevail, but signs are not wanting that the farming class are awakening to their responsibilities in this direction, and the formation of farmers' battalions has come within the sphere of practical realisation. The number of recruits raised in Ireland in the period from August 2, 1914, to the 8th instant inclusive, is 86,277: of these 10,984 were raised between October 10, 1915, and 8th instant inclusive.

The distribution of recruits to both the Army and Navy up to December 15 into the four provinces is estimated by the police to be as follows:—Ulster, 49,760; Leinster, 27,458; Munster, 14,190; and Connaught, 3589. Regard must be paid, however, to the fact that 73.9 per cent. of the adult male population of Connaught is engaged in agriculture. The similar percentages in the other provinces are, respectively—Munster, 51.3; Leinster, 37.4; and Ulster, 46.5 per cent. The general disinclination of the farming class to which allusion has been made to join the colors is not specially characteristic of one province more than another, and adversely affects the provincial quota in proportion to these percentages. At the commencement of the period under review 5100 sailors recruited in Ireland were serving in the Navy. Since August, 1914, a further 3446 have joined. Taking the two services together a total of 145,869 is reached. No account can here be taken of Irishmen recruited in Great Britain and serving in British or Scotch regiments, and the conclusion submitted concerns the insular contributions only.

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## THE SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH

The golden jubilee of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart was celebrated at their Head House, North Sydney, with befitting ceremonies. On March 16, 17, and 18 there was a Triduum in the Mother Mary Memorial Chapel, at which splendid discourses were delivered by the Very Rev. Father P. Cullen (Provincial of the Vincentian Fathers), Very Rev. Father E. Gleeson (Head Superior in Australia of the Redemptorist Fathers), and the Very Rev. Father Alphonsus Coen, C.P. (Superior St. Brigid's, Marrickville). On Sunday, March 19, his Excellency the Apostolic Delegate celebrated Pontifical High Mass. After Mass the Mother-General entertained a gathering of distinguished visitors at a jubilee banquet, at which his Excellency Archbishop Cerretti presided. His Excellency, in replying to the toast of his health, which was proposed by his Lordship Bishop O'Connor, paid a tribute to the labors of the Sisters of St. Joseph, who had from the first encountered many trials and crosses. No doubt the blessing of God rested upon them, and now they were in almost every diocese continuing their glorious work for the children in the schools, and helping the bishops and priests for the salvation of souls. The Holy Father, added his Excellency, knew of the sanctifying life of the Sisters, and in spirit was amongst them in the celebrations, and wished them every success and the blessings of God. In the afternoon the Rosary was recited in the memorial chapel in the presence of a large congregation. This was followed by an eloquent panegyric of the life of Mother Mary of the Cross, by Rev. Father E. J. Sydes, S.J.

The following letter has been received by the Mother-General of the Sisters of St. Joseph from his Holiness the Pope, through the Apostolic Delegate, on the occasion of the golden jubilee of the Order:—

Beloved daughter in Christ, health and Apostolic Benediction.

We gratefully acknowledge your kindly sentiments of filial love and your offering of Peter's Pence. You wished to signify by your gift of fifty sovereigns the fifty years of your institute, but your offering signifies to Us, not only the fifty years of your institute, but also your good works multiplied a hundred thousand times, and the beauty and splendor of your virtue. For your virtue shines forth especially in your many undertakings for promoting and fostering religion in all the dioceses of Australasia. The Apostolic Delegate, who informs Us of your labors, adds, moreover, that you are especially devoted to aiding the poor, and particularly those country people who, on account of distance and the scarcity of the clergy, have rarely the opportunity of hearing the Word of Life from the priest. There could be no more fitting opportunity of congratulating you, on this your devotion to the needy, than the approaching jubilee of your institute. And while We do so with all good will, and recall together with you the benefits bestowed upon you by God, We give grateful thanks to that same Lord and God, and earnestly pray that He may sustain by His grace what He has wrought in you, and by your zealous labors He may increase the same to richer and more joyful fruit. And may the Apostolic Benediction which We lovingly bestow upon all, and especially on you, beloved daughter in Christ, be an earnest of those blessings. Moreover, We grant to all the opportunity of gaining a Plenary Indulgence, who having confessed their sins and received the Holy Sacrament of the altar devoutly, visit any chapel attached to a house of your institute.

Given in Rome at St. Peter's, on the 8th day of January, 1916, and in the second year of Our Pontificate.

BENEDICT XV., P.P.

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