

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

For National Patriotic Organizations.

Hon. President, the Prime Minister; Vice-Presidents, The Right Hon. The Earl of Roseberry, K.G.; The Right Hon. Arthur James Balfour, M.P. Chairman, Mr. H. C. Cust. Vice-Chairman, Mr. G. W. Prothero. Hon. Treasurers, The Right Hon. Viscount Ridley; Mr. Waldorf Astor, M.P. Hon. Secretaries, Mr. E. Russell Burdon; Mr. Geo. F. Shee. Secretary, Mr. A. J. Dawson.

Telegrams, Cencomtee, London; Telephone, Regent, 5100.

Canadian Pacific Building, 62, Charing Cross, London, W.C. Communications should be addressed to the Secretary.

The following passage is reproduced from the leading article in "The Times" of Saturday, November 21st, 1914:

"We direct special attention to the important appeal we publish to-day from the Central Committee for National Patriotic Organizations. The Committee undertakes the task of explaining the reasons for the war to our own people, and of laying before neutral countries a clear statement of the British case. The appeal is backed by the Prime Minister, Lord Rosebery, Mr Balfour, and others, and its objects are so urgent and imperative that we trust a generous response will be made."

The following letter appeared in all the most important newspapers of the United Kingdom on Saturday, November 21st, 1914.

TO THE EDITOR,

Sir,—At this time of grave national crisis, we trust that you will permit us to invite the co-operation of all your readers in the important work which has been initiated by the Central Committee for National Patriotic Organizations.

By the side of our Allies, the British Nation and the British Empire are at war with a most formidable enemy. Our cause is doubly a righteous and just one, because we fight not alone in defence of our existence and freedom, but for the right of small nations to enjoy the same freedom; and for civilization and democracy, as we understand them. The enemy threatens to destroy these and to substitute for them the rule and methods of a ruthless militarism.

In the last result, British public opinion may well prove to be the deciding factor in this great struggle. Given steadfast and unwavering fortitude on the part of the whole British people, we believe the victory will be ours. But, come what may, there must be no weakening, no wavering, no patched-up truce that would expose our children to a revival of the German menace, probably in circumstances far more terrible for the Empire than those which face us to-day.

In view of its vital and fundamental importance, it is plain that this great driving-power of public opinion must not be left to shift and vary as temperament and the changing fortunes of war may dictate. Many useful educational agencies (most of which are now co-operating with the Central Committee) are at work in different ways upon the task of informing and fortifying this greatest of all national assets—public opinion. But whilst this educational work has been carried on strenuously in certain parts of the country, there are other districts where little or nothing has been done. The extension of the work to every district of the United Kingdom is important and urgent, and the Central Committee was therefore brought into being by means of voluntary effort to assist, unify, and supplement the work of all organizations labouring for this end.

Equally important is the task of laying before neutral countries a clear statement of the British case; for the moral weight of neutral opinion will exert an ever-increasing influence on the issues of the conflict. Germany, with that thoroughness which characterizes all her undertaking, is making strenuous efforts to influence the opinion of the world in her favour. It is imperative that immediate steps should be taken to present the full evidence on which our case rests in order to enable neutral countries to arrive at an impartial judgment.

With this end in view, the Central Committee has proposed a far-reaching scheme for the translation and distribution of suitable literature in these countries.

We therefore appeal to men and women of good will to associate themselves with the Central Committee, and to make possible the fullest development of its work by contributing according to their means. In addition to this financial assistance, which is essential for the prosecution of its

work, the Central Committee will be grateful to those who can help by acting as local hon. secretaries in different parts of the country, or by supplying the names and addresses of others who would be willing to work in this capacity.

Donations should be made payable to the Central Committee. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, The Central Committee, Canadian Pacific Building, 62, Charing Cross, London, W.C., from whom full information may be obtained.

H. H. ASQUITH, Hon. President.
ROSEBERY, A. J. BALFOUR,
Vice-Presidents.
H. C. CUST, Chairman.
G. W. PROTHERO, Vice-Chairman.
RIDLEY, WALDORF ASTOR,
Hon. Treasurers.

DONATIONS TO MAORI ORGANISING FUND.

For Year ending December, 1914.

March.
Mrs Lee-Cowie, per Mrs Dearlove, £3 10s.
April.
Timaru, Mrs Bardsley, £1 15s.
May and October.
Nelson, £2 6s.
June.
Stratford, collection, 13s 9d; Pahia tua, collection, 15s.
July.
1st, East Gore, collection, £1; 13th, Wanganui, per Miss Henderson, £1.
July and September 18th.
Dunedin, £3.
July.
23rd, Wellington Central, £1 6s 6d; 30th, Kaiapoi, £1.
August.
5th, Blenheim, £1; 7th, Ashburton, £1; 26th, Woodstock, Invercargill, £1; 26th, N.E. Valley, Dunedin, £1 13s.
September.
9th, Winchmore, 5s 6d; 12th, New Plymouth, £2; 25th, Woodville, 8s; 25th, Wellington South, £2.
October.
5th, Opotiki, 10s; 16th, Manaia, £5; 19th, East Oxford, £1 8s.
November.
5th, Wanganui, £10; 5th, Napier, £1 5s 2d; Palmerston N., £1; Gisborne, £2 12s; Waipukurau, 10s; Ngaere, £1 6s; Auckland, £3; Port Chalmers, per Miss Powell, 10s; Waimate, £1 15s; Timaru Y's, £2.
Total, £55 0s 11d.

Acknowledged with thanks.

N. F. WALKER,
N.Z. Treas. Maori Fund.