

C O P Y      O F      T E L E G R A M .

From.

To.

Natives,  
Pretoria.

Magte.  
Mafeking.

Genl. Botha desires to make a personal appeal to all Magtes., Native Commissioners and Officials in Native Affairs Department, with view stimulating recruitment of Natives for the S.A. Native Labour Contingent for Overseas; since the arrival of the first battalion in Europe, its value in the complex machinery of the world war being waged by the King's armies have been fully proved by War Office and every labour sent forward the release of a combatant ~~xxx~~ for the firing line; it is the sacred duty of every Official to do what he can to assist in the prosecution of this war to a successful end, and much can be done by those who are prevented for various causes from actively participating in the actual arena in assisting in this aim the number of recruits now coming forward as compared with previous numbers is disappointing, and whatever the reason for this may be, it is possible that it can be overcome by the enthusiasm by the Officials, and Genl. Botha desires that Officers will enlist the sympathy of Missionaries and traders in Native areas and ask them to use their influence in suggesting and carrying on a vigorous recruitment that following message from himself be communicated by Officers to Chiefs, Headmen and Natives signed last year. I informed the Native subjects of the King, in S.A. that at the request of His Majesty's Govt. it had been arranged that a contingent of 10,000 natives should proceed to Europe for labour service, and the native people in certain parts of the Union responded to His Majesty's call immediately, and they were sent to France and these volunteers have proved of great value to His Majesty and altho' not in the fighting line are doing very important work in providing labour and thus releasing soldiers who are able to go forward as actual fighters against the King's enemies, the work is being so well done by the Natives who have answered His Majesty's appeal, that I was requested by His Majesty's Govt. to recruit more natives; you have already

.....been

been told that more recruits will be welcomed, but it seemed to some people that in some parts of South Africa the Natives have no ears, this cannot be so and I have therefore asked your Magles, and Native Comms. to bring this request directly to the Notice of Chiefs, Headmen and people to see if there are people without ears, opportunity is now given to the Natives of S.A. to show their loyalty to King and Country and with the example of those who have led the way before them and assure that this opportunity will be taken to prove their patriotism, to their love to King and Country in a practical manner; I ask Chiefs, Headmen and people to come forward for labour service in the ranks of His Majesty's army in France. (ends).

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