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## A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

### Editorial.

It only shows you what rumours are worth.

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We heard it definitely stated by "one who knew," that there would be no more "Sappers." And yet . . . .

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And there very nearly wasn't. We don't know whether it was a result of the Armistice excitement, or draft excitement, or pure lassitude, but it is a fact that until the 11th of the month not a single line of matter reached this office. The springs of inspiration appeared to have dried up at the source, and we were faced with the horrible alternative of going to press with only the casualty list and the advertisements, or not going to press at all.

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Then Corps Signals came to life with a contribution, promptly followed by the 7th Battalion (how nice it is to be allowed to state in print that there *is* a 7th Battalion). That gave us hope, and we got to work.

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One of the first results of the new era is the loss of a very striking figure from the Centre. Major Shergold has been moved on, to carry out work in connection with demobilization for which his great experience and personality especially fit him.

The Major's military record is well known, and his administrative work here brought the Signal Company to a high order of efficiency.

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The chief question of the moment among a large part of the troops is "How to get away

as soon as possible, but not before Christmas." The situation reminds us of St. Augustine's celebrated prayer (before he became a saint): "Oh, Lord, save me—but not yet." Considerable ingenuity is exercised by individuals in trying, from very scanty data, to fathom the mind of the Government, and find out by processes of pure reason what "THEY" (that mysterious "they") are going to do with us.

Our own policy in this matter coincides with the celebrated war cry of a well known politician. We shall "wait and see."

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We recently had the pleasure of an interview with Capt. G. R. Chetwynd—the founder of this magazine—who was on leave from France. Capt. Chetwynd is a Staff Captain with the 1st Brigade, and spoke in glowing terms of the splendid order and efficiency with which the troops have marched forward into Germany.

Discipline, he says, while being maintained at a high level, is cheerfully recognized by the troops as the first essential of an army on the march; and as a result, every arm of the service moves to its appointed place with the precision and regularity of ordinary manœuvres.

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It is pleasing to note that the same order and co-operation among all ranks obtains in the Centre during what is admittedly a trying period. No one knows from day to day whether he is "for" Canada, or for leave, or for just the common round; but it seems that the proper spirit of armies has taken sufficient root in individuals of the unit to continue bearing fruit.