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41 ST. JAMES STREET
St. Johns, Que.

THURSDAY'S JUBILATION.

The somewhat premature jubila-
tion of the bringing of Germany to
terms which reached here early
Thursday afternoon was one of the
biggest events seen by the men of
the E. T. D. What appears to have
been an erroneous report which
ran like a prairie fire over this
great continent did not miss St.
Johns, and the armistice was cele-
brated in royal style by the men
of the local command.

The news came suddenly, just as
the afternoon parade was drawn
up on the square. The bell of St.
James church pealing joyously
seems to have been the first clue
as to what was in the air and short-
ly thereafter, the news came to the
barracks by telephone via Montreal
that the final overthrow of a
hideous autocracy for which blood
has been freely shed for more than
four years, was at hand. Suddenly
cheers broke out from one of the
companies on the square and with-
in a few seconds others learning
the wherefore joined in. Men em-
ployed in offices, orderlies—in fact
all the "shut-ins" made their way
hastily to windows and joined in
the roars of cheers which were by
that time ascending. The fact that
the news came from Montreal and
was contained in "rush" extras of
the press and the fact that the
factory whistles of St. Johns were
blowing frantically and bells peal-
ing gave sufficient corroboration
of the news.

At the time, men were being
boarded, indicating the early de-
parture for the goal of their ambi-
tion but this work was quickly
stopped when a half holiday was
proclaimed.

The band being away playing
for the Victory Loan at Ottawa
there was at first an absence of the
full festal music appropriate to the
occasion but "Shorty" of the cook-
house proved equal to the occasion
and he dived down into his kit and
brought out his cornet and made
his way to the square, climbed up
into a wagon and the silvery tones
of "God Save the King" brought
every man in hearing distance to
attention. To many it was perhaps
the most stirring rendering of the
National Anthem ever heard, and
the mind involuntarily paused to
realize what the news meant for
the Empire.

"Shorty" did not stop at the
great anthem, and after the great
volume of cheering which followed
it had died away he broke out with
"Rule Britania" and then, with
many of the popular war time
songs which have sprung into
being during the past four years.

Hundreds went down town to partic-
ipate in the revel which was
going on there. The civilian
populace was greatly stirred and
British and French flags appeared
quickly and there was great re-
joicing. The bugle band formed
up and led a great procession
through the streets. A flag was
secured from some building for the
occasion and led the parade being
restored to its original owner some-
time later. The bells rang and the
whistles blew for nearly two hours.
A steam whistle on the kitchen roof
at Main Barracks was also hurried-
ly brought into play and joined in
the chorus. When the steam got
low, it was shut off and more
generated and thus it continued
periodically through the afternoon
'as it caught its breath'.

An extra picket of some fifty
men went on duty in St. Johns at
nightfall but the jubilation was
very orderly and it had little work
to do. In many private homes, the
news, the correctness of which was
never doubted, there were little
home celebrations and the fatted
calf was prepared for the joyous
occasion.

During the afternoon at about
half past three o'clock the dull
thud of a 'feu de joie' fired at
Montreal was plainly heard here
indicating that a great celebration
was in progress there too. It is
even reported that at noon the
blasts of the Montreal whistles
could be heard in unison.

There is a good deal of comment
in the barracks on the portentous
phenomenon which was seen by all
who went on breakfast parade on
Thursday morning. As the men
were falling in, there appeared
high in the Eastern Heavens a
beautiful rainbow in the half light
of early day and many eyes feasted
on the sight.

On Friday afternoon the rain-
bow and that which was also
ominous to Noah were compared.

FIVE POUNDS A HEAD.

A newly formed battalion of an
Irish Regiment went into the
trenches for the first time, and in
order to keep enthusiasm as full
pitch the commanding officer pro-
mised five pounds for every Ger-
man killed.

For a long time nothing hap-
pened, and then after ten minutes
bombardment by Fritz, Murphy
and his chum squinted over the
top, and saw a host of the enemy
coming over.

"Glory be!" cried Murphy, with
delight. "Foive thousand of the
divils at least. Terrance, we bhoy,
git your rifle, our fortunes are
made."

—AT—

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41 St. James Street, - St. Johns

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