

# A SPLENDID RECEPTION GIVEN THE QUEBEC DRAFT.

## Our Brave Boys Back from the Eastern Front.

A glorious thing it is to spend and be spent in service for one's native land; and more the glory if, in the spending, there comes that keen appreciation which is but the due of heroic deeds. At any rate so we felt as we welcomed back the heroes of Quebec. Long they had been far from us, in honest toil deprived of those calm, sure joys of rural life; long giving of their heart's endeavour (and withal their muscles too), in storming of steep dangerous declivities; in searching for the secret dangers of conspiracy beneath the smug counters where the enemy, in sleek dissemblance, bartered the forbidden weed whose smoking tells of peace. Full many days and cold, long nights, they've braved the dangers of dark citadel and lurking passage way,—daring not to venture out alone, but choosing rather, if such chanced to be their fortune, to while away the uncertain hours in such sweet companionship as should drown the thought of hidden fear. Yet theirs not to shirk the noble call of duty when summoned from the more peaceful 'vironment of "Knots and Lashings", to stand four square braving their breasts in that unskilled crude way of infantry. Such are the necessary misfortunes of a cruel war, and in the braving of theirs they've brought glory. Not indeed that this was needed to enhance the long esteemed prestige of such a unit,—for did we not already have our photos taken not many days since,—yet they have lived as live they could not otherwise, bearing within their breasts, the fullsome knowledge that here in peaceful quietude, we watched and waited the full fruits of their frank heroism.

So it was, with throbbing hearts we must needs welcome them in those clear hours of morn, when the mounting sun gloried in their glories, and pictured for us the gladsome joy for which we, in our depth of feeling, could find no tongue's expression.

Such is not the time for ought of lewd ribaldry. Such reverent awe and hero worship is not expressed in seemly fashion, by loud sounding cheers. It were rather true to that reverent attitude of mind which bows in token of its admiration, to stand silently, keen feeling in the heart,—and throat,—subduing all other pent emotion.

Providence has kindly given them back to us again.

What could we more than drape those bannered emblems, crossed with the cross of a nation's sacrifice; what could we more than spread the board in preparation for such glorious homecoming; what could we, when anon those pent up feelings would burst forth, but line the long avenue's leafy reach, and honour them; what other 'companyment could man devise than that brave strain of Caesar's composition which wells far upon the morning air from weird trombone and reedy clarions and tells of "conquering hero's homeward come". Mere sentiment in war-time! Not so,—'twas but the due of those whom honouring we felt was honour! Why should we forego the keenest pleasure in such welcome of military pagentry, or leave our welcome to the thronging gaze of mere civilians. Not so. We still stand fast in our belief that we were justified in "standing to", all hands to cheer our comrades as they came.

The above is a German version of the occurrences on the morning of June 11th at St. John's. The semi official report is less detailed though perhaps nearer to the sad truth, and reads thus:—

xxx officers and xxx rank and file detained at the C.P.R. station on Tuesday morning from Quebec, and were received by the faithful 'Rags'!

"Honni soit qui mal y pense."

## ATHLETICS.

Beyond the usual baseball and soccer practices, there have been no athletic events to record during the past week. An unusually busy seven days, occupied with the reorganization of Depot Companies, muster parades and routine training, left little time for other activities.

But this afternoon, weather permitting, there will be "something doing" on the E. T. D. gridiron.

For some inexplicable reason, the Quebec Detachment came back to the old home town, with a large chip on their shoulders. At the E. T. D. such chips are not considered permissable as part of regulation equipment.

Consequently a team from the Depot, will meet the Veterans from the Rock City this afternoon. It is said that both teams are heavily backed by their respective fans, and a strenuous contest may be confidently expected.

Fine weather and a large turnout should make this one of the events of the season.

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