

**REDUCED POSTAGE ON LETTERS TO TROOPS ON SERVICE.**

THE "sweethearts and wives" of the members of corps ordered out on actual service will doubtless exchange a good many letters with the absent ones so dear to them. It will be of interest, therefore, to them to know that they enjoy the privilege of sending their "pink letters" at a reduced rate of postage, provided the regulations for such correspondence be duly observed. Happily no requirement is insisted on that the tender epistles should be sent open to the scrutiny of every unsentimental and stony-hearted post office official who may desire to pry into the mysteries of love letters, and be disposed to make fun of the "sweet nothings" that may pass between

Two minds with but a single thought,  
Two hearts that beat as one.

There is no regulation that the envelope should be of a peculiar shape, of transparent material, or scented with any particular variety of perfume familiar to the feminine toilet. The rules are simple but they must be observed strictly, lest, mayhap—oh dreadful thought!—some tender missive destined for a lucky "Tom, Dick, or Harry," Algernon, Adolphus, or Fred, should find its way to the Dead Letter Office, there to have its contents gloated over by the officials popularly supposed to possess themselves of lots of careless ladies' secrets through the medium of the single eye-glass largely affected by aristocratic members of the Ottawa Civil Service. However, we promised our fair friends the rules; and here they are, stern and concise, word for word, as they appear on page 49 of the Militia Regulations:—

372. Under regulations of the Post Office Department, letters for or from non-commissioned officers and privates of the Active Militia of Canada, when on active service, can be forwarded between any place in Canada and any other place in Canada on prepayment of two cents for each letter.

373. The formalities which require to be complied with are:—

(1) The letter must not exceed half an ounce in weight.

(2) The letter must refer solely to the private affairs of the militiaman on actual service.

(3) The name of the militiaman, his class or description, and the corps to which he belongs, must be specified in the direction of the letter; and certified by the officer commanding thereon.

(4) The foregoing description must be fully written in the following form, the initials of the name of any corps being insufficient:—

From A. B., Private or Sergeant, as the case may be, — Batt. or Corps.

To (here insert direction),  
Place.

C. D.,  
Officer commanding corps.

(5) Letters posted without a compliance with the above regulations are liable to be sent to the Dead Letter Office, Ottawa.

It might be observed that section 1 of paragraph 373 is just a trifle harsh, as placing an arbitrary limit on natural indulgence of the affections. Our personal experience having been somewhat limited—and our early education sadly neglected—we should feel obliged if any of our readers who have enjoyed better facilities for arriving at a competent opinion can inform us how many kisses will go to the pound, so that on a future occasion we may be able to estimate for the benefit of all concerned, the number that the half ounce limit is supposed to cover. *En passant*, it is proper to remark that it is just a little rough on the unmarried officers of the expedition, that the privileges accorded to the N. C. O. and private are denied to those who hold commissioned rank. However, they may console themselves with the reflection that their *cheres amies* can send such sweet contributions through the medium of the parcel post (4 oz. for one cent), though, sad to say, the package must be made up so as to be available for the inspection of every prying post office official, and there is no place in the North-West except Winnipeg to which the contents of such a package weighing more than 2 lbs. 3 oz. is permitted to be mailed even in this way.

**Answers to Correspondents.**

**ENQUIRER (Hamilton).**—You were wrong that time. A surgeon has no "command" except in the actual line of his special duties. A lance-corporal even would be the authoritative commander of such detachment, if no superior combatant officer were present.

**LOYAL CANADIAN (Buffalo).**—The law provides that "any militiaman who, when called out for active service, shall absent himself from his corps for a longer period than seven days may be tried by court-martial as a deserter." Send your address to the captain of your company, and he will doubtless notify you promptly if the corps should be called out.

**Q. O. R.**—We have no knowledge of an offer having been made by a Toronto journalist to raise a corps of 300 Montana cowboys on condition that he himself receives a commission. Whether he holds "independence" views or not, the law requires that every officer of militia on appointment shall take the following oath:—"I, \_\_\_\_\_, do sincerely promise and swear (or solemnly declare) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty."

A BOOK-KEEPER in a down-town office was advised by his employer to obtain his discharge from his corps as he was needed at home. He was a married man. When he went home that evening he told his wife his decision, and asked her opinion. Claspings their only child to her bosom, she warmly replied: "Don't you do it, Charlie; go to the front, and do your duty like a man!"

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