

The Western Scot

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY IN THE INTERESTS OF
THE 67TH BATT., "WESTERN SCOTS," OF CANADA, C. E. F.

(By kind permission of Lt.-Col. Lorne Ross, C. O.)

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1st, 1916

ALAS, TOO SOON!

Alas, too soon we said: "Farewell"; too soon we rang the parting bell, and publication day again comes round to tax our halting pen. Ere now we thought to be away, a-whooping onward toward the fray; and, whiles, we even thought that we, by this, would be upon the sea. And now once more our printer pokes his head in and says: "Now, you blokes, shoot in some bubble and some squeak, or there won't be no 'Scot' this week!" Our publisher doth likewise stand with "Bill for Printing" in his hand; but we should worry over pay—the business end is up to Gray! Around us sounds a busy hum of preparation. Boxes come for packing up and each day brings a lot of signs and other things for decoration of the train that is to bear us to the main. And yet, alas, we linger here, which causes many a bitter tear. Soon we shall be of hope bereft, 'cause there won't be no Germans left!

SPIRIT WILLING AND FLESH STRONG

By Lieut.-Col. Lorne Ross, C.O.

Now that we know, officially, that within a very short time we shall be on our way to a new objective en route to our ultimate destiny on the battlefield, there is one consideration that must outweigh all others, and that is the consideration of individual efficiency. Just as a chain is not stronger than its weakest link, so a battalion, in battle, is no stronger than its least efficient member on whom dependence is placed. I have no doubt of the gameness of any Western Scot, but heaven help him who depends alone on gameness to see him through this war of science!

When we take our place—a new, untried battalion—in the fighting line, those with whom we serve will look to us to do our part without fail or flinch. They will not excuse us if we fail through ignorance or inability. Courage is the accepted quality in British troops; they have that to begin with. When we reach the front it will be taken for granted that we have built on the foundation of courage and fortitude the strong structure of individual and collective efficiency.

Each man of us will be looked to to play a man's part; not half a man's part. It rests with you to prepare yourself physically and mentally to rise superior to the best—or the worst—the enemy can offer.

In the Western Scots I am convinced we have a fine fighting machine. But, ask yourselves, all of you, whether, if your chum depended on your efficiency to do a full man's share, would you be equal to it, or, for lack of physical fitness or technical training, would you fail in the pinch and leave your chum to do the work of two men?

It is time now for all of us to stand face to face with the real demands of the work we are entering upon. It is time for each of us to take himself in hand and master the last item of useful knowledge, together with the last ounce of endurance and physical fitness. It is time for us to cut out the use of liquor, excessive smoking—excess of every kind—and consecrate our minds and bodies to this task we have undertaken. It is time for us, too, to seek to mold our characters as soldiers by rigid observance of discipline—intelligent obedience, unwavering loyalty.

It is not enough that the spirit be willing; the flesh must be adequate to the greater occasion.

OUR THANKS

The management of the "Western Scot" wishes to thank the members of the Battalion for the way they are now supporting the paper. Last week's issue was sold out within half an hour of reaching camp. This is most encouraging to

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the management, and it has been decided hereafter to increase the number printed.

We are now prepared to receive subscriptions at the following rates for mailing the paper weekly to any address: 25c per month; \$3.00 per annum.

You are certain to have a number of friends in Canada with whom you wish to keep in touch, but to whom you cannot hope to write regularly. In what better way can you achieve your object than by having a "Western Scot" mailed every week? Call at the Editorial Department of the "Scot," in the Orderly Room, and pay your subscription for the period desired. We shall attend to the rest.

Don't procrastinate! Subscribe now.

THE SEVENTY-TWA

We have received a copy of "The Kilt," the publication of the 72nd Battalion, C.E.F. (Seaforth Highlanders of Canada). While they express regret that they are not this time included in "the elect" for overseas, they congratulate us heartily on our luck and wish us all success. The article says in part: "The Western Scots, the 67th, of Victoria, have also proved themselves a splendid corps, but it has not been our fortune to see much of them. Hearty congratulations to them on the good news contained in the daily press, and best wishes for success." We thank the 72nd for the sentiments expressed through the medium of "The Kilt," and assure them there is no regiment we would sooner have alongside us than the Seventy-Second Seaforth Highlanders of Canada.

AN APOLOGY

In the department headed "Machine Gun Patter" in the issue of "The Western Scot" last week there appeared an item which, while intended, we believe, in fun, could be construed otherwise were the officers of the corps to which it referred less magnanimous. On behalf of "The Scot" we herewith, voluntarily, tender a sincere apology for the said item, which would not have appeared but for an unfortunate oversight.

AFTER THE WAR

What did the "Western Scot" say about you, Daddy, in the Great War? If the rising generation continues to progress at the present pace, you will be stumped by the foregoing question unless you have a file of the "Western Scot," as the said rising generation will undoubtedly demand ocular proof of your statements. Just imagine the comfort and relief it will be to refer your youthful inquisitor to the third shelf in the library and silence him (or her) for all time. We have on hand a few of the back numbers, which we shall sell to the first comers. We quite appreciate how bashful one must feel in tendering the small sum of five cents for each of the back numbers of this invaluable publication, but remember that if you don't do it, some more brazen and hardened individual will. The office of the "Scot" is in that portion of the Orderly Room recently occupied by the Pay Department. More minute instructions would be superfluous.