

The Western Scot

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27th, 1915

AS TO CHANGES AND CHANGING

The advent of the C.M.R. to our happy home here at the Willows seems to have caused considerable overturning of regimental apple-carts during the past week. With the change of the Independent Squadron of B.C. Horse into a full-fledged overseas battalion they have, or are about to take up their sojourn in the classic and hallowed precincts of the brand-new drill hall, while the remnant of the 50th Highlanders, of ever-blessed memory, has been transferred to the old drill hall, where also is now quartered the Army Service Corps under our old friend Major Small, who has just returned from Vernon. This leaves the two squadrons of the C.M.R., about 400 strong, the 88th Battalion, in the throes of a recruiting campaign for overseas, and the Western Scots (some 250 over strength), to shake themselves down in the five or six great barnlike buildings that constitute the stock-in-trade, so to speak, of the Agricultural Association. And this shaking down is where the rub comes. Alterations and readjustments are necessary, and the sound of the hammer and the saw are heard in the land. When the Western Scots came upon the scene earlier in the year our Quartermaster (bless his soul!) was succinctly told by the headquarter staff responsible that any and all alterations needed must be carried out "as other units had done—pay for them yourselves." And with the assistance of a kind providence and the aid of half a dozen of Victoria millmen the Western Scots did pay for all the alterations they needed. The thanks of this battalion were duly conveyed to these kind millmen and others concerned, but had we then known that there was another honest method of securing the lumber other than begging it we most certainly would not thus have imposed on the good nature of these gentlemen, and to them we tender our apologies accordingly. And furthermore we are certain that an investigation will reveal the fact that if funds were available at that time to correct and recorrect a range-finding installation as at first and as at a second time attempted to be installed, and both times equally defective, that funds were also available for the proper housing of troops whose only offence was eagerness to serve their country. Parliament voted many thousands of dollars to provide the range finders and their installation, and Parliament also voted ample money to take care of our troops, and it was grossly unfair to compel the Western Scots to pay for arranging their quarters only to have these alterations torn down and others made at the public expense without as much as "by your leave."

S.B. SECTION

Privates Low and Wallace went on a scouting trip to Vancouver last week-end. They brought back good reports, and other members of the Section expect to go over next week with stretchers, to "collect wounded"—hearts.

Private Peters now says he won't bet a dollar.

"Beetles" are not seen around the cubicle any more. One member has scared them.

We are up to full strength in our Section once again. We hope that there will be no more transfers, in order that we may become expert in working together.

The second "shot" of inoculation proved too much for Teddy. That was where Bob got the ha-ha on him.

We have secured more musical talent in Privates Walker and Rashleigh, pianist and mandolinist respectively.

Say, was that our new sergeant's stripes which were found in Private Parkinson's pocket? Do tell, Peters!

Lance-Corpl. Sargent has been honored by quite a few unsolicited testimonials from patients in the Hospital for his

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care and thoughtfulness. They were coming his way too, so says Bill, and all of us.

With our possible early departure for the Old Land, the following verses may prove interesting:

TO EDINBURGH.

Edina, Queen City, thou gem of our islands,
With light moving verses thy beauty I'll praise.
No fairer than thee 'mid the Lowlands or Highlands,
None fitter to merit the patriot's lays.

Long, long may you flourish in freedom and learning,
Long, long be your daughters as fresh and as gay,
Thy sons loyal and noble, still keen and discerning,
Made strong with ideals which never decay.

Majestic thy palace, where sovereigns once seated,
Surrounded by beauty, decreed their proud will,
But 'tis gone, that bright pageant, the figures retreated,
Save these ancient walls, honored monument still.

While yonder rude fortress, which has stood oft regardless
Of wild hurtling volleys or foemen from far—
Is there no one to sing of its history, bardless?
Has the glory departed, like morning's clear star?

Yet Ferguson speaks, with thy charms more acquainted,
And Ramsay, sweet artist, thy beauties portray,
But still thy bright nature ne'er yet has been painted
In manner befitting thy features so gay.

For the Queen of all cities art thou, many mountained,
With thy wild dizzy cliff and enchanting green bower,
Where the swift rushing torrent, and streams many fountained,
Reflect the rare charm of thy tall rising towers.

Long, long may you flourish in freedom and learning,
Long, long be your daughters as fresh and as gay,
Thy sons loyal and noble, still keen and discerning,
Made strong with ideals which never decay.

—B.H.W.