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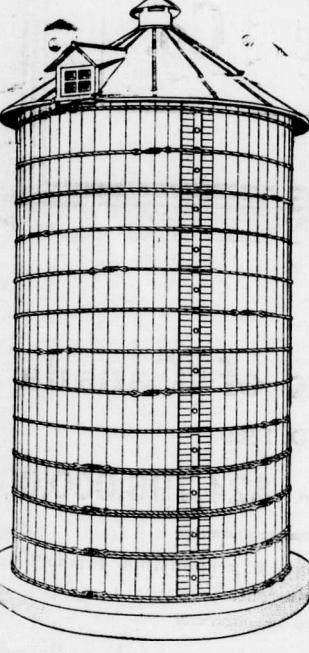
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TOO MANY OFFICERS, BUT NOT ENOUGH PRIVATES.
—x—
To the Editor of the Express.
Sir,—After last summer's artillery examinations, it was seen that too many officers were being turned out for the demand, and the next course was made much more difficult, with the result that less than half passed, whereas previously the majority had been successful. Then came the order to raise the Canadian force to 500,000 men, and another class was formed, which finished its course last Tuesday; and as the results of recruiting have been so disappointing, it will be the last, since not half the officers will find commissions.
Their only chance now is to join as privates, and be ready for promotion as the fortunes of war and their ability permit. Otherwise they will be sitting on the fence ready to cheer when our patriots come home. Many who hold lieutenant's certificates are doing this.
So far as I can see, the artillery drill here is practically the same as that of the infantry, and this has resulted in at least three-quarters of those who enlisted going with the infantry rather than with the artillery, as they think there is less work than with the horses and big guns. We have now a county battalion asking for men, and it will be a rare chance for any men really in earnest to enlist in an overseas battalion to go now. They will probably be put on garrison duty at that beauty spot, Bermuda, to permit the garrison now there to go to Britain. It is possible they may later go to England, but their reaching the firing line seems very remote. At any rate, it offers great opportunities for what may be called "chocolate soldiers," and yet it has not been the battalion's choosing.
To those who wish to remain with the artillery, batteries at Guelph, Brantford, Toronto, and Kingston

are being formed, and there will not again be such a demand for men. It should be felt a privilege to go as companions of Rev. Mr. Beecroft, R. J. Wright, Bert Thompson, Wm. Dunning, and S. Elgie as privates with the Guelph Battery they are joining.
There is no possibility of armories being built here, and it would be better if those who do not intend going to the front would unite with Major McGregor's light infantry, making a fair-sized company.
It would add to the interest of the May 24th programme if we could have a competition drill between these two companies and learn what the difference in drill is. Months ago it was reported that there were enough officers to go as an officers' battalion; that there were many such in Winnipeg, though their University had the privilege of appointing many with the Imperial forces.
It is certain we cannot have men for these officers unless we have Conscriptio, to which both leaders at Ottawa are opposed. Over two hundred Canadian junior officers in England who have been waiting for a commission to turn up, have been told they must enter as privates and take their chance for promotion, or return to Canada. Any one who has taken an officer's course should make a good private if they had the courage, as the knowledge they have obtained must be very useful.—Yours, etc.,
Observer.

NON-JURY SITTINGS NOW ON AT ST. THOMAS.
—x—
Among the cases on the docket at the spring session of the Non-Jury Assizes, which began on Tuesday at St. Thomas, with Mr. Justice Middleton presiding, are the following, in which Aylmer and Malahide citizens are interested:
Lorne L. Miller and W. H. Finch, of Aylmer, claim of Thomas E. Pound a right-of-way of necessity upon and over lands. At the time of the conveyance the parcel of land had no inlet or outlet thereto or thereto.
W. K. Cameron and Dr. J. A. Campbell, executors of the estate of Kate Livingstone, sue Wallace Baker, a cheesemaker at Malahide, and claim \$2,846.34. A mortgage was made to the late Kate Livingstone to secure the sum of \$2,500 and interest and no part of it is alleged to have been paid. The defendant admits he made the mortgage and that he has paid and satisfied the whole of the principal moneys and interest due, except the sum of \$600. The defendant is now ready to pay the \$600 and interest, but the plaintiffs have refused.
William Warnock, of Aylmer, assignee of William Lawrence, a farmer of Malahide, brings suit to recover four notes amounting to \$1,602 from Humphrey Johnson, a private banker, in the village of Springfield.

A CARD.
—x—
In answer to the question as to what we are doing for our baby, we would say that up to date we have fed him on sterilized, unsterilized, pasteurized, cow's, goat's, condensed, peptonized and modified milk. We have rocked him to sleep, sung him to sleep, and let him howl himself to sleep. We have dosed him with hot water, peppermint, ipecac and soothing syrup. We have rubbed him with goose oil, olive oil, and cod liver oil. We have patted him on his stomach to the tune of "John Brown's Body." We have shaken a rattle before his face for three-quarters of an hour. We have given him mental treatment, vibration treatment, and turned red, blue and green thought on him for hours. We are here to take orders and advice from everybody, and if you have the slightest thing to suggest that we have not already done to that baby, do not tell us—we may forget it. But write it down, and send it along at the earliest possible moment.—Yours respectfully,
The Baby's Parents.
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE WORK APPRECIATED.
—x—
The Aylmer Women's Institute have been sending boxes filled with needful articles regularly to the boys from Aylmer and district, at the front. That their efforts and thoughtfulness is appreciated is shown by the three following letters, which were, among others, received by Mrs. Almas, president of the Institute:
Begium, April 10, 1916.
Dear Mrs. Almas,
Just a few lines to let you know I received the box of comforts you sent me on the firing line, and I sure appreciated it very much. Everything that was in it was of good service, and arrived in first-class condition. Mr. J. Wallace has also received his. My sister, Mrs. W. H. Finch, wanted to know if Harold Hale was with me. Yes, he is, and his address is the same as mine. I think all the Aylmer boys are with the 16th Battery that I know, except H. J. Richardson and Charles Dingle. I hear that Mr. Robinson, who used to be in the printing office in Aylmer, has been killed. He was with the 18th Battalion. Clinton

Learn is wounded, but will pull through. There is very heavy shelling to-day—in fact, has been for over two weeks; and I can tell you all at home that it is a fierce struggle, and it will sure be a blessing when the last shot is fired and we are all on our homeward journey. Oh, what a gathering that will be, although there will be some who will not return. But I can assure you that those who have fallen have done their duty and have given their lives for King and Country as heroes.
We of the 16th Battery have been very fortunate in these seven months of steady fighting, night and day, and only have lost two comrades—one killed and one who died of wounds. It is useless for me to try to tell you much, as I would never get through with this short note.
Thanking you, ladies, one and all, and trusting we may all have an early homecoming—Respectfully yours,
J. L. Parker,
84172, 16th Battery,
4th C. F. A. Brigade,
2nd Can. Div., Army P. O.,
London, Eng.
Begium, 2nd March, 1916.
Dear Mrs. Almas,
I have received the parcel of comforts to-night. Please convey my thanks to the Aylmer Women's Institute. I am delighted with it, for everything is so useful. The people at home are very good to the boys out here, and it is good to be a Canadian soldier. We have had a very wet winter, but are looking forward to a good warm summer, so that we can get down to real business with those Huns—Believe me,
Yours very truly,
Roland Gatward.
84129.
Flanders, April 3rd, 1916.
Dear Mrs. Almas,
A few lines, thanking you very much for the parcel I received from you the other day. I should have dropped you a line three or four days ago, but we have been more than busy lately, and this is the first opportunity I have had to write any letters for over a week. It certainly does us all kinds of good to receive presents from our friends at home, and we certainly do know you have not forgotten us.
The articles you sent are all just what one needs, and the parcel came along in first-class condition.
We Aylmer boys are all getting along first-rate, and we often get together and talk about what is going on over home.
Well, I will close by again thanking you for the parcel—Yours truly,
Driver H. C. Sinclair.
84245.

SWISS CAKES.
—o—
Cold fish, cold potatoes, one egg, an ounce of butter, pepper and salt. Shred the fish, taking care to remove all the skin and bones; mash an equal quantity of cold potatoes very finely and season with the pepper and salt. Melt the butter and add; beat the egg and mix in well so as to bind the mixture. Flour your hands and roll up the mixture into small balls, flattening them out into little round cakes; sprinkle with flour, or brush with egg and toss in breadcrumbs; then fry in hot fat until a golden brown. Serve very hot and garnish with parsley.

CANADIAN PACIFIC GREAT LAKES STEAMSHIP SERVICE.
—x—
Effective at once, Canadian Pacific steamship "Manitoba" will sail from Owen Sound, 11 p.m. each Wednesday during the season of navigation, for Sault Ste. Marie, Port Arthur, and Fort William. Connecting train leaves Toronto 5:25 p.m. Full particulars, reservations, etc., from any Canadian Pacific Agent, or W. B. Howard, District Passenger Agent, Tronoto.

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TO RENT—Good frame cottage, barn and garden.
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