

the usual super-excellence of the local winter climate trembled in the balance. Then, suddenly, as though to rebuke our unbelief—

"Ray on ray splits the shroud,"

and if we cast our gaze skywards, and not on the quagmire that surrounds us, illusion may fool us again—for awhile.

The week has been a broken one. General leave was granted from 1.30 p.m. Saturday to 10 p.m. Tuesday, this including the regulation 48 hours, the customary privilege of departing units. With Monday evening came the deluge, and the men of No. 4 Platoon returned on Tuesday to find themselves flooded out of house and home, a condition of things with them these days accompanying every rainfall, and which must keep them busy watching the weather forecasts. We understand that the porous condition of the roof has been admitted, so, in all probability the fact will now leak through to the Pioneers, and early action can be looked for.

Wednesday was another rain-soaked day, and was devoted to the issue of the Oliver equipment, and the filling in of identification forms. In the latter case the searching nature of such question as—

Are you married or not?

If married, state full name of wife.

Are you a widower?

Have you any children? etc., etc.,

seemingly proved a matter of perplexity to some. Certain members of the Company seem to have entered the holy state of matrimony in a somewhat light-hearted manner, judging from their indefinite replies as to the number of their offspring.

By mid-day Thursday the weather had taken a turn for the better, so, after a morning devoted to physical jerks and a lecture by Lieut. Marsden on sentry duties, a Battalion Route March was taken through the South Saanich Municipality, when the new equipment was worn for the first time. The presence of both bands helped considerably.

Friday was spent in Company route marching, both morning and afternoon.

Since the recent issue of new equipment we have all arrived at a greater realization of what has been meant in the past by the various journalistic references to a "Great Drive on the Western Front." Happily, however, we have not as yet located any straps which would interfere with our well known ability to kick.

Is it true that Sergt. Gammond volunteered to act as Orderly Sergeant that he might be near the telephone.

In answer to the query in last week's "Western Scot" as to the price of milk, Pte. Shaw says he always pays cash, and secures the usual discount, but that Pte. M. McGillivray could and will give any of the boys advice as to how, when or where to settle milk bills of long standing.

Pte. G. Irvine spent his leave with relatives and friends in Victoria, and sometimes Esquimalt. Since his return he has been in a very meditative mood, and his wandering remarks lead his friends to believe that Geordie will be asking permission.

Was it to benefit as much as possible from the free fares on the B.C.E. Ry. or to escape from the political turmoil that so many of No. 1 Co. travelled to Esquimalt and Oak Bay on Saturday (Election day). We think it must have been the latter, as all returned to Victoria after the polls closed at 7 p.m.

#### What We Would Like to Know

- 1st. Will it be compulsory to trim moustaches a la Chaplin style?
- 2nd. Was No. 1 Company glad to see Lieut. Gray back home again?
- 3rd. Why was No. 1 Platoon so quiet on the route march Friday afternoon?
- 4th. Does a man have to pay back any borrowed money to a guy that was crazy enough to lend it to him?
- 5th. Does a man have to get his hair cut these days?
- 6th. Why do the girls all love Waltho?
- 7th. Why doesn't Thomas get married?
- 8th. How old is Jack Smith?

Birthday celebrations are old institutions and always end happily when not carried to extremes. Pte. Cliff started out to celebrate his, full of good resolutions, but whether he ended happily is rather doubtful. It is hard to ascertain how he came to need the help of crutches, but from the beauty spots on his face we come to the conclusion that he must have used

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