THE WESTERN SCOT

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 26TH, 1916.

DISCIPLINE.

Recently we had the pleasure and profit of listening to some pointers from the experience of an officer who is rich in experience of this war, Lieut.-Colonel Victor Odlum, D.S.O., lately in command of the famous 7th Battalion of the "Fighting First" Canadian Division, now to command the 11th Brigade of the 4th Division.

One point stood out strongly in Col. Odlum's crisp résumé of conditions, and that was the absolute necessity for discipline. For instance, he disposed of the gas danger lightly by citing the excellent protection of helmets, but added : "Of course, a poorly-disciplined Battalion will suffer heavily from gas because they will not obey quickly enough and will not have so habituated themselves to immediate and constant obedience to orders as to be ready in a matter of seconds. Their helmets will not be ready or will not be properly folded when the sudden attack comes; or the alarm will not be given with sufficient rapidity. It is only a matter of seconds, and discipline must be of a high standard. When it is, the gas danger is not serious.

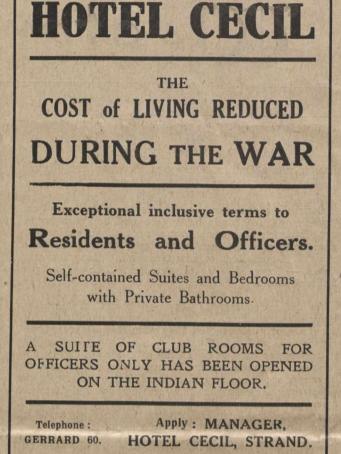
All through his interesting description of conditions at the Front as they are now, Col. Odlum paid tribute to the supremacy of discipline. The habit of instant obedience to the order of the commander is absolutely essential not only to success in this war, but also to the safety of all ranks.

Now, in the training period, is the time to get the habit of discipline. It is too late when you reach the firing line -too late for you. Others, of course, may benefit by your mistakes, but if you lack discipline you are going to suffer, and possibly, even probably, cause the loss of many of your comrades. C. L. A.

WHAT RICHARD STEELE SAID.

So apt with reference to the Huns and the present war that it might have been penned yesterday, is this excerpt from Richard Steele's essay on "Recollections of Childhood

"Who can have lived in an army, and in a serious hour reflect upon the many gay and agreeable men that might long have flourished in the arts of peace, and not join with the imprecations of the fatherless and widows on the tyrant to whose ambitions they fell sacrifices ? But gallant men who are cut off by the sword move rather our veneration than our pity; and we gather relief enough from their own contempt of death to make that no evil which was approached with so much cheerfulness, and attended with so much honour. But when we turn our thoughts from the great parts of life on such occasions, and instead of lamenting those who stood ready to give death to those from whom they had the fortune to receive it; I say, when we let our thoughts wander from such noble objects, and consider thoughts wander from such hobe objects, and consider the havoc which is made among the tender and the innocent, pity enters with an unmixed softness, and pos-sesses all our souls at once. . . . Oh, death I thou hast right to the bold, to the ambitious, to the high, and to the haughty ; but why this cruelty to the humble, to the meek, to the undiscerning, to the thoughtless ?"



"THE WHIZZ BANG."

We are in receipt, through the kindness of Lieut.-Col. Ross, of the first copy of "The Whizz Bang," the official medium of the wide-awake 207th Battalion (Ottawamedium of the wide-awake 207th Battalion (Ottawa-Carleton), and we trust that we may be favoured with succeeding numbers. This paper is one of the best we have seen ; it lives up to its name, creating a "Whizz" of anticipation followed by a "Bang" of realization. It is one more recruit in the ranks of C.E.F. journals, and we wish it every success. Lieut.-Col. Chas. W. MacLean is C.O. of the 207th, which is called "MacLean's Athletes." They look mightly good and they will be velocited " over They look mighty good, and they will be welcomed "over the Straits" by everyone except Hans und Fritz.—C.L.A.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association in the recent session urged the establishment of the shipbuilding industry in Canada on a permanent and profitable basis. * * *

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It is announced that enlistments of civil servants and other federal employees now total 3,424.

The Anglican Synod at Winnipeg has pledged itself to support the Government in any measure found necessary for the further mobilisation of Canadian men and also for any measure that may be found necessary in connection with resources for the war.



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