

The Forty-Niner.

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DON'T KNOCK, BOOST!

Unlike most publications the Forty-niner is not being issued with the idea of making money. If expenses are defrayed, those responsible will be perfectly satisfied. If there be a surplus, however, it will be turned over to the battalion fund, and so directly benefit every member of the battalion.

Soldiers are proverbially extremely poor letter-writers. It is safe to say that men of this battalion are not exceptions. Relations, friends and well-wishers back in the Canadian west are undoubtedly anxious for news of the boys, and the organisers of this undertaking think that there could be no better medium for supplying this want than a battalion magazine. This, briefly, is the reason for the appearance on the scene of the Forty-niner.

The first object of this magazine will be to deal with news of the 49th Battalion. One has only to consider the number of events occurring daily in our lines to arrive at the conclusion that there will be no lack of material. All that is needed is co-operation, and judging by the reception the Managing Committee has received from those approached for assistance, there is no need for apprehension on this score.

The regiment has the reputation of doing everything undertaken thoroughly, and we are sure the boys will put their shoulders to the wheel and boost the effort along in the manner expected of them.

While necessarily there must be some routine news published, it is not the intention to devote too much space to dry and serious reading matter. What we need are articles, anec-

dotes and short stories in the lighter vein. If you hear a good story, write it up and send it to the editor. If you cannot write it, tell it to someone who can, for it is only fair if you get a good laugh that you should pass it on. The sport will also be boosted.

In conclusion we would say that under the most favourable conditions the work in connection with the publication of such a magazine is not by any means a sinecure, but under active service conditions it is doubly hard.

All the work is being done gratuitously in whatever spare time can be snatched from the rather strenuous routine, so if our efforts appear very humble we would remind the men that "patience is a virtue," and ask them instead of condemning, to co-operate with us in bringing it up to the high standard every other undertaking in the regiment has attained. Then we will be going some!

ABOUT OURSELVES AND OUR TRIP.

Getting away to a great start by busting all records for quick enlistment, the 49th Battalion has been going strong ever since, and every man in the regiment is ready to bet his last cent on it for a winner at the close of the race. Few, outside ourselves, are aware of the fact that the battalion was up to full strength in less than two weeks after recruiting started, that applications for entry were being turned down almost every day until Edmonton was left behind, and that Major Harris, the Medical Officer, weeded out misfits and men physically unfit as ruthlessly as a gardener would weed his choicest plot of ground. The result is what was expected. Malingerers, booze-artists and men who are in any other way undesirable are practically unknown. Taking these things into consideration, we are compelled to believe the many who have insisted that we are a "fine body o' men."

The regiment, naturally, had a great reputation right from the start, for it was recruited in a city that had the reputation of doing things right—a place that had grown from a village to the most important town in