

THE CLANSMAN.

(Incorporated with "The Lethbridge Highlander.")

Published weekly by the Reserve Battalion, in the interest of the Highland Battalions of Canada.

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GREETINGS.

The Clansman extends a hearty New Year greeting to all. May the coming year see every man of His Majesty's forces prosper; may every day bring some cause for joy; may every minute bring a blessing. May those of us who are sent to the front enjoy the protection of Providence and may those now on the firing line come through safely. May the wounded in the hospitals and on the field be brought good cheer in a speedy recovery. May the records which our forces have made stand to the end of time and may we never have reason to regret having donned the uniform. May the coming of the next year see the war at an end and see us back in our places in civil life—provided this much-to-be-desired peace can be brought with a credit to our country and be made in such a way as to make another world-wide war an impossibility in the years to come.

WILL CONCERTS END.

From the present outlook, the Seaforths may lose their concert parties for the remainder of the season. The loss, if such is to occur, is due to no lack of patronage on the part of the boys of the battalion, nor of lack of support of the officers, but from the fact that the staff of the Y.M.C.A. through which they have been staged, has been depleted during the past few weeks to such an extent that it seems almost impossible for them to continue the work. The most severe blow was in the loss of Lieut. Farmer, who was recently called from here to take up the work in another camp. Mr. Farmer had been giving his whole attention to the local concerts and had become exceedingly popular with both concert parties and the soldiers. It was due to his cheerful smile and genial good humour that the concerts went with their unusual swing and freedom and his loss is being sincerely regretted by all.

We are still hoping, however, that some arrangements may be made by which they may be continued. They are bright lights in camp life.

PEACE TALK.

For the past several weeks the papers have been full of talk of peace and it now seems that the Central Powers are ready to listen to reason. Much as the boys in uniform would like to see peace restored, they do not want "peace at any

price," and every man Jack of them is willing, and more, to see the war continued indefinitely if suitable terms are not made. The majority of the lads have given up responsible positions in civilian life to don the khaki—many of them have made sacrifice which only they themselves can realise, and to see peace brought about at this stage of the game without terms of credit to Britain and the Allies would seem to them a sacrilege and a slur on the colours which they serve.

COME ON, FELLOWS

With this issue *The Clansman* is entering upon a new stage of its existence. It has been recognised by other units of the brigade of which it is a part, and before the passing of another week we hope to see it looked upon still more favorably by those units who have not already "come into the fold."

The battle of getting the paper on a sound footing has not been a light one by any means, but thanks to the loyalty of the officers and men, it is now won, and we can safely say that we are out of the experimental stage.

Come on, fellows and take a hand. Let us make the little sheet a good, live wire. Every little note you send in and every subscription paid, is a share in making it the success we should like to see it. The invitation to get busy is a standing one. Your help will be appreciated.

Beginning in our next number, a new serial will be published, entitled "Appy's 'Appy' Xmas." A thriller!

Our list of exchanges is growing rapidly. Two or three new magazines of regiments and ships find their way to our desk each week, and it will not be long until we can boast complete lists of military publications. Will you pardon us for the use of the shears? We feel that by using material from other papers we can keep in closer touch with the units which they represent than in any other way.

Soldiers who have subscribed to *The Clansman* to be sent home will confer a favour upon us and make our work easier if they will at once notify us of the failure of the papers to arrive. Unless we are told differently, we do not know but what the papers are arriving safely. We have back copies on hand and will gladly replace any number which may have been lost in the mail.

Thanks to Pte. Taylor, of the pay office staff, we were given a treat one evening last week when he presented us with several cigars. The little smokes are made by the firm of which Pte. Taylor's uncle is a director—hence the freedom with which they have been distributed. They were dandies and will probably become favourites with the boys in khaki when they have become better known.

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Getting paid on the day before Christmas, was sure all right. It is the long wait till the next pay that hurts. Ask some of the Seaforth bandmen, who have been reduced to the sore straights of smoking "butts" for the past several days.

OFFICERS' MESS ATTRACTIVE.

In all the rounds of the Camp on Christmas Day, the one thing that was most noticeable was the officers' mess of the local battalion. The decorations, done by the mess attendants, could not have been better arranged, or could not have presented a better appearance. Appropriate greetings in holly met the eye on entering the dining room. The national colours were much in evidence and gave both dining-room and ante-room a real festive look. A short trip to the kitchen revealed feats of cooking which we had never dreamed could be produced. A boar's head, boiled ham, cakes of many kinds were beautifully decorated with frostings and Christmas messages—in fact, it was almost to be regretted that the delicate edibles should have been the victims of the carving knife.

LOST CHUMS COLUMN.

This week sees the opening of the Lost Chums column. We are in a position to help locate any man of the service and will gladly do so. Address all inquiries to "Lost Chum Column" *The Clansman*.

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