

An Appreciation.



CAPT. G. R. CHETWYND, D.C.M., C.E.

The loss sustained by this journal on the removal of Capt. G. R. Chetwynd, D.C.M., to France, is an irreparable one. We lose not only a leader and organizer of great personality, but also a friend.

It will be noticed that in publishing his portrait we have omitted the usual categorical statement of his military history and achievements. We didn't want to do that, but we had to. When we approached him, note book in hand, and asked him for the history of his horrid past, he struck a thoughtful attitude, and said: "Let me see now, m'yes. I was born in —, and immediately opened my beautiful brown eyes and said 'Mamma.' From that moment my career has been one of uninterrupted success. The only reason I am a soldier instead of a cabinet minister is that I prefer a quiet life. Is there anything else you want to know?"

That's the sort of man he is. But he gets things done.

In the beginning of this year he noted the necessity for a Depot magazine that should possess the ordinary features of a regimental paper, and at the same time be a medium through which men of the C.E. serving in France could keep in touch with their comrades who have been invalided to this country to be made into soldiers again.

To think was to act with the Captain, and he immediately set to work. It was hard work.

The authorities had to be interviewed, ways and means had to be discussed and obtained, correspondents had to be appointed, and all the Companies of every sort in France had to be communicated with, in order to get the thing going. All these things he did himself.

Then came the question of printing, and new difficulties arose. It appeared there was a paper shortage—a thing one doesn't think of in the Army—to be overcome. He overcame it, and obtained priority orders from high authority for the use of paper.

Difficulty after difficulty was met and handled by pure energy and personality, and the magazine was born and has prospered. To us who are "carrying on," the work is merely one of keeping up-to-date and following a system, but the mind that conceived and built the system has left us.

To all who have worked with him, not only on this magazine but also in his Company (the old "C" Company) he was an efficient commander on duty, and a merry companion off duty. A keen appreciation of humour in any form, combined with a true insight into the motives of human actions to give him the right balance of mind necessary in controlling men. His experience, also, as a soldier of many years' standing, has given him an inexhaustible fund of military knowledge.

Kind, just, and efficient as an officer and a man is the description that best suits him. He will take to France the good wishes of all who worked with him or under his command, and THE CANADIAN SAPPER, of which he is the founder and organizer, especially wishes him good luck and swift promotion.

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Lieut. G. H. Cliff.

The Presidency of this magazine, vacated by Capt. Chetwynd, is now filled by Lieut. G. H. Cliff, for some months Adjutant of "C" Company, and now Acting O.C. We welcome our new chief, and trust he will long remain with us. The Editorial chair is filled by Driver Butterfield.

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Colonel Gardner.

Col. S. D. Gardner, M.C., Commanding the Canadian troops in the Seaford Area (whose portrait appears on the Editorial page) learned the rudimentary principles of soldiering as a trooper in the Cape Mounted Rifles, and also saw service in the Natal Rebellion of 1906. As Adjutant of the 6th (Duke of Connaught's) Regt. at Vancouver, he kept touch with military work, and was one of the first officers to volunteer for service in the present war. He came overseas as Adjutant of the 7th Batt. (B.C. Regt.), and went through the second battle of Ypres and Festubert, sustaining a lung wound at the latter. This kept him away from the fighting for about a year. He returned to the firing line in June, 1916, and promotion came rapidly. He received his majority the same month, and his Lieut.-Colonelcy in July. His old injury re-asserting itself, he was evacuated to England, and has since then held important commands at Shoreham and Hastings. On the re-organisation of the Canadian Home Command he came to the Seaford Area as G.O.C., succeeding Brig-General Landry. Besides the Military Cross, he holds the Legion of Honour (Chevalier), and was mentioned in despatches in 1916.