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phenomenal. A small draft of officers sent to England for instance included mining engineers from Burma, Siberia, Cobalt, and British Columbia. Similarly the classes at present in training are made up in part of men who have come here from the remotest corners of the earth. The Scotch burr, the murderous Cockney, the soft Welsh speech, the harsh Yorkshire, the Ontario twang—these and many other dialects are heard.

Amongst the rank and file an even more marked heterogeneity is observable. Men of education and refinement are to be found in every company. And, be it noted, these men look upon themselves as neither heroes nor martyrs. Posing and squealing are not encouraged in the Engineers.

In effect, the "raison d'être" of the Depot is the speediest possible conversion of civilians into efficient military men. So to balance drill, practical training, and lectures, as not to neglect either the purely military or the technical sides of the course, is a problem of exceeding difficulty. However, that balance has apparently been achieved and is being maintained. Not that the course is perfect. Many a usbaltern in training could proffer suggestion after suggestion. Luckily, he is restrained by a right and proper fear of God, early instilled in the bosoms of all of us.

That the course established at the Depot makes a strong and peculiar appeal to mining men, goes without saying. The work, alike for private and for officer, has a singular attraction. It is creative and direct. Resourcefulness and expedition count enormously. A high premium is placed upon initiation and efficiency. The man who has followed the 'bush', or has prospected, or has done general work about the mine, makes a much desired and much appreciated recruit.

Is this true? It is a soldier's privilege to grouse. Two Engineers were recently bewailing their hard lot, and saying who they would be if they could choose. "I'd be a Sgt.-Major," said one enviously. "Why?" asked the other. "Because he ain't got no work to do and all day to do it in," was the reply. The second Engineer snorted contemptuously, "I'd rather be the O.C." "Would you woffer?" "Well, the Sgt.-Major has nothing to do and all day to do it in, but the O.C. has nothing to do, all day to do it in, and umpteen officers to help him."

LASHINGS

STREET MENACES.

When the canny Scot entered the bar, rubbing his hands and said—"Well boys! what are we going to have—snow or rain?" some were disappointed.

There are some of us in St. Johns however who are anticipating trouble and are not going to be disappointed. We refer to the overhanging icicles and snow on the streets.

In a city of the size of St. Johns there should be bylaws to control this evil. The new mayor and council promised to clean the city up when they were elected. We noticed some pipes laid this year in a most unworkmanlike manner—trenches not tamped, and huge ridges of mud. Is this their method of cleaning up? What is the City Engineer doing?

Some person is going to be killed or injured by these icicles or snow. Woe betide the city governors if it happens to be a soldier from the barracks.

LATE PASSES.

This paragraph is directed particularly to our new arrivals.

The boys at the Depot here in St. Johns ever since the Depot was established, have held a reputation which we don't want to lose. The townspeople have shown us the usual courtesies, and we have in the past behaved ourselves as becomes soldiers.

We would remind our new arrivals that we have established friendships in the town that we don't intend to have broken. We have established a reputation we don't intend to have besmirched, and furthermore we have privileges—such as late passes—which we don't intend to lose.

"Knots and Lashings" takes this opportunity to call the attention of the recruit, be he Engineer, Forester or Special Railway to the fact that this down-town "rough stuff" won't go.

We've noticed quite a number of good fellows among the new arrivals—our advice is not for them.

The Eternal Feminine.

Bab—What are you laughing at?

Claud—I'm afraid it's a man's joke.

Bab—Then I want to hear it.—
Judge.

Theatre Royal

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

February 15th and 16th

THE DEEMSTER

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