

The new big drum arrived yesterday and we are now looking for a volunteer to come forward and play it. Any man in the Battalion who thinks he is capable of handling this important end of the Band will be welcomed by Cpl. Humphreys, who will submit names to the B.M.

Stripes may come and stripes may go, but we go on for ever! There has been a few changes in the Band in this direction also. Jimmy Higgins is still with us.

We are pleased to say that owing to our silent marching and the superior strategical manoeuvres of Sergt. Gaiger, the Band was the only section to escape capture and return safely home after the battle of Mt. Tolmie and Christmas Hill.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor of the "Western Scot":

If it won't take up too much space in your interesting publication, and if it is in order to write such letters to you, would like to show my appreciation for a certain article published in your last issue entitled "A Plea for Reflection," an article which should be read and digested by every soldier. The writer shows a deep knowledge and clear insight of the ways of a soldier. We know how true are his words, part of which I will quote: "Just about the time a regiment is ordered to the front, its members seem to give themselves up to having 'a good time,' in other words, to lose their identities in 'riotous living.'" How many of us that know the temptation to do this, and are doing it, and it is such articles as the above mentioned one that make some of us pause and consider, and maybe change our ways, to some extent, anyhow.

It seems to me that if we had some more of this kind of stuff in the "Western Scot" and a little less of personalities, we could improve the morale of this publication, to the uplift of individuals and the benefit of the Battalion. Maybe I am wrong, but I wish to express the sentiments of one of your readers, and I hope there are others who will also suggest ideas for the benefit of us all.

Please let us have more articles by the same party on the same subject. "Lest we forget! Lest we forget!"

R.A.B.

(Contributor of "A Plea for Reflection" please note.—Ed.)

SHAVINGS FROM THE PIONEERS' WORKSHOP

Here we are again! We have just heard that the Pioneers seem to have forgotten that there is such a publication as the "Western Scot," but we hope you will forgive us as we have been so busy recently. Route marches, etc. Ahem!

We hear that since Pte. Pearson, No. 102254, came back from his New Year's vacation that the man who collects the refuse from the cookhouses has to make one trip per day less to the camp. We cannot understand why this should be so.

Rumor bath it that the ruddy appearance on the face of Pte. Cope, No. 103130, is caused by indigestion. Perhaps the man behind the bar in the Dominion Hotel is an authority on dyspepsia, which may account for his frequent visits there.

Pte. Stronach, No. 102299, slipped one over the tailoring staff last week. He disguised himself by the simple but very effective method of washing his face and managed to talk the Sergeant-Tailor into cleaning and pressing his tunic and pants on credit. We hear the said sergeant is still looking for payment of same, as Private Stronach belongs to a city which even the followers of Moses shun.

Our sergeant is certainly looking well since his visit to the Cowichan Valley last week. He arrived back in camp a little late and put up a yarn that he was out hunting. We believe him alright, but didn't ask him what kind of game he was after, or what luck he had. Reports from the neighborhood say there are some very fine "dear," and prairie "chicken" are plentiful.

The Pioneers are certainly great footballers. The "Pipe Baun" challenged us to a game last week, which ended in a draw of three all. Pte. Lister, outside right for the Pioneers, was easily the best man on the field, whilst Pte. Pearson, at right back, played a very "steady" game, brilliant at times, but mostly "steady." The sergeant would be better left outside than left back. "Geordie" Allen and Sergt.-Drummer Simms starred for the Pipers. Please, Sergt.-Drummer, let us know when your next open date is.

More next week.

HAMISH.

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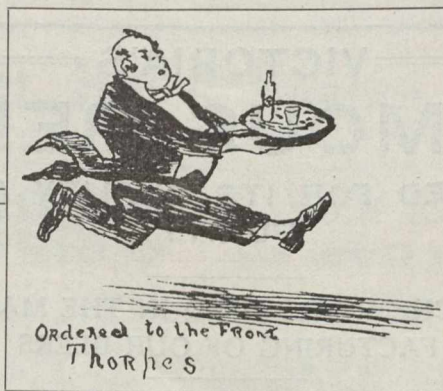
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