



The Western Scot

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SUBVERSIVE OF DISCIPLINE

(From "The Colonist")

Under the above caption The Western Scot, which, as most people know, is published by the regiment popularly known by that name, discusses what it says is a far too common practice among officers of the several battalions in camp here. We shall let it state its case to Colonist readers in its own words:

"Where one finds the officer commanding one unit freely and adversely discussing the commanding officer of another and later mobilized unit, it does not speak very highly for discipline, and without discipline an army is little better than an armed mob. This particular reflection is the result of personal observation some few months since, and was forcibly brought to mind again within the past few days by the case of a commanding officer of one unit taking a junior subaltern of another unit into his (unasked-for) confidence, and quite freely condemning certain other commanding officers of local units, including the subaltern's own superior. And the strange and most lamentable feature, both of the last-mentioned case as well as the case referred to as resulting from personal observation, is that higher command officers were named in both instances quoted as having expressed the same opinions to the speakers."

We have no other information on this subject than what appears in the paper from which the extract is taken, but there is a good deal of gossip indicating that there may be very good ground for the above comment. If there is such ground, it is very greatly to be regretted. A lot of loose talk is floating around the community, which is not conducive to discipline or a stimulus to recruiting. It is by no means confined to military circles. We suppose more or less of it is inevitable. Victoria has suddenly developed more military critics of both sexes to the square mile than it requires. We hope what The Western Scot has said will lead people, both in and out of the army, to realize that gossip and unkind criticism of those who are doing their best to serve their country are not very far removed from "giving aid and comfort to the enemy."

IN BILLETS AT SIDNEY

Arrangements have been completed for No. 3 Company, under Captain Nicholson and the Machine Gun Section under Lieut. Okell, to go to Sidney for three days' training under actual service conditions, and great interest is being taken by all ranks in getting ready for the trip.

The management of the Victoria & Sidney Railway Company have very kindly offered the detachment free transportation to Saanichton, and that will add additional experience in the manner of entraining and detraining and everything that goes with transportation by rail.

VARIETY THEATRE

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VICTORIA, B. C.

INCORPORATED 1902

The Detachment will be accompanied by the Brass Band, which will discourse music along the route and in the City of Sidney. Captain Nicholson will have in his command nearly three hundred men, which will be a composite force made up of details from every section of the Battalion. From the time the force marches out of the Willows Gate on Monday morning next at 7.15 to board the 8.30 a.m. train, till they arrive back in camp on Wednesday night, they will be strictly under active service conditions, and the outing is sure to prove most instructive and interesting to all ranks. While at Sidney the force will be billeted in buildings being provided by the residents of that town. The return journey will be by road and will be a properly organized and conducted route march. Not a single detail of active service conditions is to be left to anyone's imagination.

LES MISERABLES

Reveille sounds the dawning of the day;
The "Draft" wakes up and rubs its sleepy eyes;
We've dreamt of angels in their gold array;
Our present thoughts you hardly dare surmise.

Five minutes more the gang is gathered round
(With hopes of cold matutinal ablutions)
One measly tap that coughs from out the ground,
Water, in very limited proportions.

By "Pick-em-up," the first one gets a wash;
The rest dash off, and, though it's not good breeding,
Rush to the Mess Room through the slimy slush,
Only to find the 88th are feeding.

Why should we worry? These severe afflictions
Are but a part and parcel of the game.
The "Draft" will be in France some day, and "Holy Benedictions,"

* * * * *
We'll fix the German army just the same.

W. C. CRYER,

Pte. No. 102225.