

"THE" BAND.

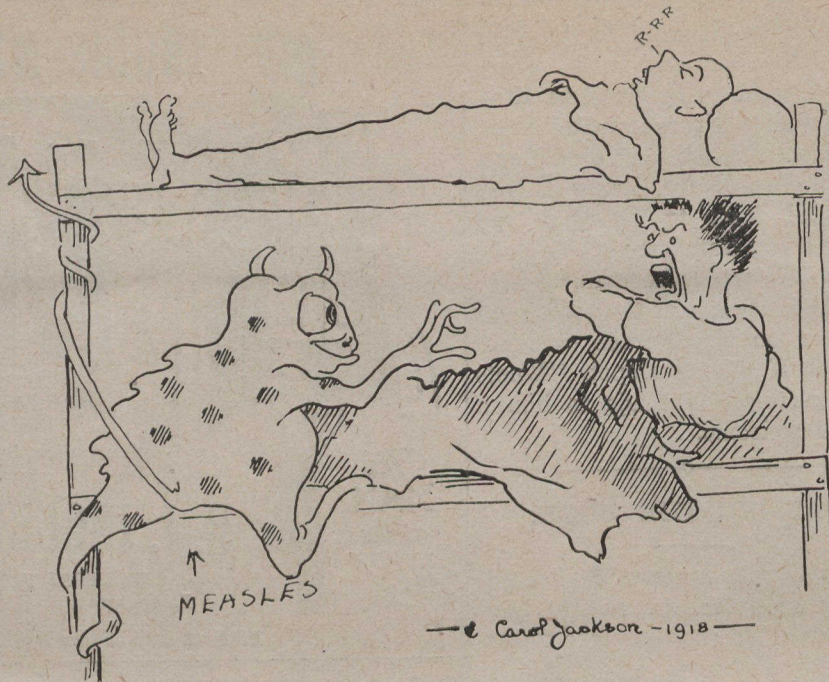
It is doubtful whether there has ever been a time, when the influence of music has been so dominant as during the past three years. And it is but natural that this should be so. Its healing and soul inspiring influence, has power to ease the overburdened mind and to bring light during darkest moments; before its universal and compelling language, monotony flees away, and the menacing shadows of war are banished. By the power of music, men are strengthened to meet the grim realities of war, and deeds of greatest heroism have been accomplished under its influence.

Music, in one of its many forms, is an absolute necessity, both in times of peace and of war, and few ceremonies are complete without it. It is possible that, to the soldier, more than to any other section of the community, music has its appeal, and, during the many months that the Engineer Training Depot was without a band, the want was keenly felt. It is true that the Bugle Band was all that a Bugle Band should be, but,—well, it was not the real thing. It might also be noted that, while at Valcartier, an attempt had been made to organize a fife and drum band, but it proved a rather dry and thirsty affair.

When the E. T. D. was transferred to St. Johns, the necessity of a real band became more and more apparent. Drafts of men came, and drafts of men went, but they came without the welcoming music of the band; and when their troop train pulled out for the seaboard, no strains of 'Auld Lang Syne' rang in their ears.

Finally authority to form a Band was applied for, and granted. The Canteen Fund,—that friend in time of need,—'came through' nobly, instruments were secured, practices started, and today we claim to have just about the finest 22 instrument Band in America,—bar none. It is, of course, superfluous to remark, that Band Sergeant Cook and his organization have already been acclaimed by the leading musicians of Canada,—and St. Johns, and,—to quote the C. O.,—Sousa and the Grenadiers quit when they saw they were beaten at their own game. It is also to interest to note that, on five several and distinct occasions, German Bands have been utterly silenced.

Today, that difficult moment when troop trains pull out is cheered by the lively strains of "The Girl I left behind me", while, on Thursday nights, both



A Common Nightmare Among the "PICKLE" Boys.

men and officers enjoy a musical program of no mean order, embracing a wide range of selections from negro melodies to Faust, with martial music and Love Dreams of Fawns and Nymphs as a general background.

Has the average Sapper ever observed the effect that music has upon such men as,—say, Generals or General Staff Officers? If not, we can assure them, on positive authority, that many a tragedy has been avoided, many an extra fatigue escaped, through the mollifying influences of the 'incidental' music during inspections. Indeed, inspections have now come to be regarded almost as a pleasure, though some of us can remember when this was not the case.

That King of Showmen, P. T. Barnum, asserted that he trained all his wild animals while they were under the influence of music. Jerico fell to the blast of brazen instruments. Of course, it took a lot of blowing,—but it blew. Darghi was taken during the Chitral Campaign to the tune of "The Barren Rocks of Adore". Lucknow was relieved, and the Indian mutiny quelled, by troops marching behind the Pipes. And in the matter of victories, our own Band has done notable work. It blew the C.O.R.'s out of town and then the redoubtable Machine Gunners. On Monday last, the W.O.R.'s met the same fate. Even "Rags" has been known to join in at times, and has a leaning toward Hughie's high note.

Now that summer has shown indications of staying with us for a bit, we are looking forward to plenty of music, if not in the City Park, at all events at the Barracks. Although, until now, our bandsmen are not "Overseas" men, they are at least "C" men. During the

'evacuation' of the Barracks, some weeks ago, by upwards of 1400 men, the Band 'downed' instruments, and, joining Corpl. Vaughan's General Fatigue Brigade, proved themselves no mean workers. Moreover, as has been previously stated in our columns, the bandsmen again came to the rescue of the Mounted Section during their recent "troubles". It may be prejudice on our part, but we consider that the services of the Band, in selling 1700 copies of "Knots and Lashings" last Saturday, earned for them no little fame.

Recently, while trying out the horses of the Mounted Section in a Musical Ride, Sgt. Cook remarked that he fully believed the horses recognized "Keel Row" and even a few bars of "Bonnie Dundee". We soon hope to see them doing the 'cross over' and 'down the centre' to the 'British Grenadiers' or to that delightful adaptation dedicated to Classes 36 and 37 known as "The Boys I Left Behind Me".

We are justly proud of our Band. The famous Royal Engineers Band has its place in Britain. The Canadian Engineers Band is fast making its place in Canada. And that's going some!

"CARRY ON".

THINGS WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW—

Why did not the band, at the O.C.'s parade, play,—“Where did you get that Hat”?

Who was the gentleman, who, on hearing that a horse drank 1¾ gallons at a time, said,—“Oh! to be a horse!”

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