

Letters to the Editor

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

Edmonton, August 17, 1917.
Editor, Canadian Courier:

In my copy of your paper, dated the 4th August, on page 6, there are these words: "Three years ago next Sunday morning the Grand Fleet of Great Britain sailed away to the North Sea."

This is not historically correct. In the month of August, 1914, I saw a postcard and a letter written by an officer of the Grand Fleet to his brother. The postcard was dated a few days before the war commenced, I think about the 29th of July, when things were getting very hot, and it stated that the Grand Fleet was sailing at sunrise the next morning. The letter which followed was written from the Fleet and stated that the Grand Fleet left Portland at sunrise and went as hard as they could go straight for a point on the Norwegian coast, where they hit the whole German Fleet. Admiral Callaghan wirelessed London for orders to begin action, but he was told that war had not been declared and nothing could be done. When the British Fleet came up to the German Fleet the German Fleet turned round and made for cover and all the British Fleet could do was to shepherd the German Fleet into Kiel Harbour.

I knew these facts in August, 1914, but did not like to divulge them at that period.

HERBERT C. HARDY.

RECRUITING RETURNS.

Editor, Canadian Courier:

In publishing in your issue of 4th instant the recruiting returns given out by Mr. J. W. Edwards, you appear to have more moral courage than most Canadian editors. The most material figures were sent to a local daily journal which for many a month glibed and jeered at the Americans and taunted them with being "top proud to fight." They appear to have been deemed unsuitable fare for the tender digestive organs of its readers.

Over a year ago a cablegram appeared in the Melbourne (Australia) Herald stating that there was great war enthusiasm in Canada and that 90 per cent. of the recruits were native-born. Some months ago the London (England) Times gave the percentage as 75. There have evidently been deliberate attempts made to mislead people outside Canada. It is bad policy from the recruiting officer's point of view. One cannot fool people indefinitely.

Mr. Edwards is reported as saying: "We have been wont in the past to sneer somewhat at some of the oddities of the Englishman who comes to this country." The Canadian who sneers at people from overseas should sit down on a good firm seat and try to solve this problem: Is a person who has never left his native province likely to be a reliable authority on dress, manners and customs? It will be of some help to him to remember that the best emigrants from Europe do not come to North America, and that if there is anything in breeding the average native of Canada is not likely to be at the upper end in the scale of civilization.

There are some Canadian-born men wandering about distant parts of the world. When they return they will probably long to drive some of their stay-at-home countrymen out of Canada that they may "stretch" their narrow minds a little. A scantily-clad Zulu warrior would think some things in Canada very strange, but probably the strangest thing of all would be the large number of healthy young men who shirk military service. He would overlook oddities in dress and manner with a smile, but he would have no smile for the slacker.

J. CARRINGTON.

Victoria, B.C.

Cause and Effect.

"Your brother has the earache."

"It serves him right," answered the small boy's sister. "Teacher has told him time and again he ought not to play the piano by ear."—Washington Star.

My Corn
Said
"This
Shoe"

-but
Fashion
Said
"This
One"



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