

Notes and Comments

IMPERIALISM is at last beginning to be understood. It is not a mere incident engendered by excessive flag-flapping, but is born of national exigencies demanding sacrifices by and for the people. True imperialism is too broad a thing to be hurt by petty jealousies and intrigues, too vital a state to allow of the incursion of politics. Imperialism has ceased to be an empty phrase; it has become an actuality revitalised by national sacrifice.

We have been favoured with a glance—free copies evidently being very scarce—of the first number of *The Listening Post*, the “trench newspaper” of the 7th (B.C.) Batt. Canadians. The one contribution of outstanding merit is “The Diary of a Real Soldier.” The bulk of the advertising space is taken by the Right Hon. R. L. Borden. Typographically, the production is capable of some improvement, and we feel sure our British Columbia friends will take the hint kindly, especially as the O.C. of the 7th is not entirely unknown in the Canadian newspaper world.

We are glad to announce that the *Gazette* has secured the good offices of Private Gitz-Rice, of the 3rd Field Ambulance. Private Gitz-Rice, who does a column of theatrical and musical comment for the *Montreal Herald* (under the pen-name of “Munday Knight”), is the well-known concert singer and accompanist. He has promised to contribute a series of “Forthcoming Musical Events”—a barometer showing the type of “social service” the battalion may later expect from our good friends and entertainers of the 3rd Field Ambulance. Mr. Rice will, of course, be ably backed in all his enterprises by “The Listening Post” (Private Sarson, also of the 3rd Field Ambulance). One of Private Sarson’s contributions appears in this issue.

Though it has not yet seen the glory of print, *The Weekly Bull*, the organ of the 4th Batt. Telegraphists, can give more pretentious sheets “a start and a beating.” It has a private—and maximum—circulation of 16 copies, and is smartly illustrated and written. We feel honoured that Editor Troules has placed us on his exchange list.

We hear the latest thing in Canada is for magistrates to offer prisoners brought before them their freedom provided they immediately enlist. What a compliment to us Canadians of the First Contingent!

The foregoing may or may not be true, but it is evidently necessary for a man to wait for the ninth or tenth contingent if he would look forward to a presentation of a gold wrist-watch or similar bauble. Somehow we feel we are glad that we only own a one-dollar Ingersoll!

The Canadians at the Front and in England are to have a semi-official organ—the *Maple Leaf Magazine*. But it’s a safe bet to prophesy that if a soldiers’ journal were run *after* the war, it would contain more of the *real dope*!

Certain ranks of the British Army, and more especially the Canadians, are to be given “special attention” by the Germans if they become prisoners. Here’s hoping the British Home Office will adopt Reciprocity.

In Memory of Fallen Comrades.

Present “volunteers” in Canada for war service are asking that they be allowed to go threshing ere they don the khaki. When will the public learn to discriminate between a *volunteer* and a *conscript*?

Après la guerre, when men meet in private and business life to talk over old times, it is likely that those who joined later than the First, Second, and Third Contingents will be faced with this poser: “Did you Go, or were you Pushed?”

Led by an Ottawa newspaper, the Canadian Liberal Party are endeavouring to secure a share of the rich plums of office by proposing the formation of a Coalition Government.

Canadian recruits rejected as medically unfit are being granted “honour” certificates, printed in red, to save them from persecution as “slackers.”

The closer we observe the British private soldier, be he old-time Regular or “Kitchener’s man,” the more we are

impressed by his bravery, his intelligence, and his cheery optimism under the most depressing conditions.

THE IMMORTALS.

Down the broad highway of the years,
In gold the deeds shall stand
Of those who died unflinchingly
For Home and Motherland.

The Overseas Club has decided to plant an avenue of maples at Lange-maarcke, to beautify the Canadian Soldiers’ Cemetery at that place.

Those of us who are homesteaders would be able to build quite a pretentious little shack out of the \$650,000 said to have been lost to the Manitoba taxpayers in connection with the erection of the new Parliament Buildings at Winnipeg.

A Russian Battalion, to be attached to the Canadian Overseas Force, is being formed in Ontario.

The town of Kindersley, Sask., has contributed \$1,000 to equip a machine gun section in the 65th Battalion, and asks that Kindersley recruits shall operate the gun.

Married men who enlist in the Canadian Overseas Force do not now have to get their wives’ consent to do so.

The approximate average age of infantrymen in the First Canadian Contingent is 25–26.

The Manitoba elections, fought on the Parliament Building scandal, resulted in the crushing defeat of the Roblin Government. The Liberals of that Province now hold 39 seats, the Conservatives five, and the Independents two.

British Columbia miners are being offered work in the English coalfields.

Roblin, Montague, Howden, and Coldwell, ex-members of the Manitoba Government, are charged with conspiracy to rob the Province in connection with the Parliament Buildings at Winnipeg. They may be tried—or they may not!

The 1st Battalion Newfoundland Regiment has been ordered to Egypt. The 2nd Battalion will likely follow.

“Bill” and “Dan,” the C.N.R. finance prodigies, have negotiated a \$11,500,000 loan in New York.