



A Weekly Newspaper, sanctioned by the Officer Commanding, and published by and for the Men of the E. T. D., St. Johns, Quebec, Canada.

Vol. 1. No. 12.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1918

5 Cents The Copy

If You Can't Knot & Unknot These Knotty Knots You're Knot an Engineer

KNOTS AND LASHINGS.

Just how important this subject may appear to the average sapper is a matter for conjecture. However, many eminent authorities, including "Rags", claim that no sapper, big or small, Scotch, Irish, or Jew, will ever gain entrance to that celestial paradise, where every day is payday and the nights are made up of wine, women and song, unless he can tie quickly, correctly, and without hesitation each and every knot prescribed by M. E., (Part III A), 1913.

The science of knot tying is not confined to engineers alone. Indeed, most of us (not all, of course) owe our very existence to the matrimonial knot, and how few professional misery makers realise when tying it, that, in reality, it is just a slip-noose.

The "true lovers knot" Fig. 1, had its origin many ages before marriage became a business in the civilized world. Tradition has it that our North American Indian, enamoured with the charms, and working propensities, of his neighbour's offspring, procured the sinew of a deer, made a noose out of it, and wore it round his neck as a token of engagement. On the great ceremonial day, the chief spirit man of the tribe removed the loop from the redskin's neck and placed it around the neck of the doe-eyed damsel—thus authorizing her to cook, labour for, love, honour, and obey, etc., etc.

The following gives a brief outline of the uses to which the service knots are applied:—

"Bowline". (Figure 2). The inability to tie this or some similar loops at the end of a rope, was the one weak link in what might have been one of the most thrilling rescues in history.

To us the most tragic incident in the history of the Great Niagara River occurred during the winter of 1912, when the great ice jam which forms annually below the Falls unexpectedly broke up, carrying its human load down towards the yawning whirlpool rapids. Fortunately most of those aboard succeeded in reaching the shore. Not so the young married couple who were unable to effect a landing and soon found themselves floating down the river towards cer-

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