

Successful Series of Concerts.

The Concerts given by the Minstrel Troupe acting in conjunction with the "Casualties" of No. 2 Casualty Clearing Station (Imperial) on the 15th, 16th, and 17th of November, in aid of the Prisoners of War Fund, were most successful. It afforded the Troupe the greatest pleasure to be associated with Capt. McKenzie and his Pierrots, and we extend our thanks to our Imperial friends for their help and assistance during the preparations for the Show. It was also exceedingly kind of the promoters to donate a third of the proceeds, which amounted to something over £3,000, to the Fund for Canadian Prisoners. It is hoped that this is the first of many similar entertainments.

The Sections of the Unit being at present on detached duty in various parts of the area, the programme was prepared under greater difficulties than we usually have to cope with. All the more credit is therefore due to Capt. McGreer and the Musical Committee for the excellent numbers provided. There was, perhaps, a great deal more nervousness shown on the first night than usual, but this is probably accounted for by the difficulty of getting every man at rehearsals without interfering with his military duties. Some slight changes in the programme for the second and third show removed this, and the performance was gone through with snap and vigour. Jack Higham and Jimmy Goode worked particularly hard, and the success of the show is in no small measure due to this pair. Higham's stories—told in his inimitable manner—never failed to catch the attention of the house, while the drolleries of Goode kept the audience in excellent humour. The chorus, under the direction of Gitz Rice, ably supported the vocalists, who, despite the bad acoustic properties of the building and the smoky condition of the atmosphere, gave a good account of themselves. The quartette—a new feature—was particularly well received. Jack Geddes was in splendid voice in "Mary of Argyle," and his rendering of "I'll sing thee songs of Araby" as an encore was perhaps the outstanding feature of the programme.

The character songs by Gitz Rice, "China-town," and "My Old Home Town," with lots of "business" from the chorus, and "My little Girl," sung by Bob Johnston, were first-class items.

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Harry Sarson's new topical song, "Rum," put to a very fine melody by Gitz Rice, was a decided hit. Ben Allen, in a new Irish song with harmonised chorus, was at his best. "If you can't get a Girl in the Summer-time," sung by C. J. Stinson, was well received, and Ed. Barrow's song and dance brought the inevitable encore.

The final chorus, "Take me Back to Canada," with a verse sung by L. L. Grieg, was a rousing number, and a fitting finale to Part I.

The Troupe was well supported by many willing helpers—Corporal Smith, Ptes. Leckie and Finn and others—in the wings.

From the Prologue to the Final Chorus the "Casualties" presented an up-to-date show in a highly creditable manner. It was evident that the party had been well trained in "business," and the costumes and properties, over which a great deal of trouble must have been taken, gave the finishing touches to an excellent entertainment.

Capt. MacKenzie's "I want to go back to Michigan" was a decided hit, while his dramatic powers were well brought out in "Murders." In "Son of the Desert," E. Angell's voice was heard to advantage. The duet, "The Fox-Trot," by A. Russell and E. Angell, was very well received, as also were J. T. Reynold's quaint songs, "Its s'lovely to be in love" and "S'what's s'nicer than a s'nice s'ice ice." T. J. Farley's songs, "The Sunshine of your Smile" and "Mother Machree," were tunefully rendered, and the harmonious chorus of "My Orange Girl," sung by E. Smith, was an excellent item.

"The Ragtime Goblin Man," sung by E. Russell with chorus, brought a well-deserved encore. An especially good number was "The Midnight Choo Choo," sung by A. J. Drew.

The finale was exceedingly effective, and the chorus was at its best in "Keep the Home Fires Burning" and "Home Again."

Gitz Rice at the piano for both parties left nothing to be desired in the matter of accompaniments.

The best thanks of the performers are tendered to Private Hill and his assistants of the Canadian Corps Headquarter Staff for the preparation of the stage, &c.

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