



Vol. 2. No. 2. St. Johns, P.Q., Saturday, November 9th, 1918.

5 Cents The Copy  
\$2.60 By The Year

Founded Oct. 1917

Advertising Rates  
— On Request —

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THE RETURN TO CIVIL LIFE.

With the alluring prospect of peace in sight, we should like to direct the attention of those in authority to the vital question of the reinstatement into civil life of those of the male population of Canada who have been upholding Canada's honour on the stricken fields of Flanders. By their fortitude and hardihood has Canada helped uphold the cause of progress and right, and as a natural corrolary they should be Canada's first charge. It has been charged against those of us who hold this view, that we would hand the country over to the soldier because he fought for it.

Let us say once and for all that we dissent entirely from that aspect of the case, but surely the men who went forth at the call of duty have claims upon our gratitude that cannot be paid in words and fair promises. Whilst many of us have been away fighting our country's cause, positions we once held have been filled and businesses once flourishing have disappeared, and the question of re-adjustment demands the earnest attention and diligent thought of all patriotic citizens.

It has been usual in the past to laudate the soldier upon the successful conclusion of a campaign and as soon, almost, as the ink had dried upon the papers containing the congratulatory speeches, to forget his existence. He was looked upon as something that had outlived its ability, consequently he was treated as a negligible quantity, to the eternal disgrace of those in authority who permitted it. Vested interests have grown enormously during the present war, and we would like to utter, in warning, the pregnant phrase of the old Hebrew prophet when he defended the individual against the rights of vested interests,—“How much more value is a man than a sheep.”

Interests and property that during the war have become deep-seated and deeprooted, to the detriment of the community must disappear in the face of the pressing needs of the returned soldiers. Now is the time for our statesmen to grapple with the situation. Vocational employment alone, only touches the fringe of the question; a larger, wider and more statesmanlike view must be grasped and greater comprehension of the immediate needs of the soldier and their dependents taken, so that ringing down the ages the old cry will appeal to those in authority and recognition of the statement that a “man is of more value than a sheep” will be given.

To work upon the old lines in dealing with the situation would belie Canada's reputation for progress. Our only fear, and the reason why we urge upon the powers that be, this warning is that in delaying preparations, disastrous bungles may occur. This we wish to avoid and so make the lot of the returned soldiers a happy one and one that is fitting from a proud and grateful country.

STAND BY YOUR PAPER.

The staff of “Knots and Lashings” desire that every man in the Barracks, no matter whether he be quartered in the Main Barracks, Vinegar, or College should know that the Depot publication, as the line on the front page indicates, is for the delectation and delight (we hope) of the Depot generally—not for any special class but for everyone who is here serving the Empire. It is not a medium whereby ‘knocks’ can be administered under the guise of harmless jest or banter, neither is a forum in which the vials of wrath and indignation may be poured out against the authorities, or disgruntled men stung by the retribution visited upon them.

“Knots and Lashings” should be the pride of the Barracks and it should by all means have the undivided support of the personnel. This paper will endeavor to present sanely and safely the current news of the E. T. D. and contributions are requested from those who know of happenings deserving of print and little stories that carry subtle humor which invariably make delightful morsels.

The Depot paper should be sent home by every man to his family for the folks at home are thirsty for the events in the days and the incidents in the lives of those men who have forsaken civilian calling

for the worthiest of causes. Then there is another phase of “Knots and Lashings”. Ponder a minute, and look into the future and of the days when Peace shall have returned and the present E. T. D. personnel have returned to their peace time habits. There will be evenings when the mind will revert to the days at St. John's even though many of us may be denied Overseas Service. There will be pleasure galore in refreshing the memory, and what could do it better than copies of this paper to prod the mind and reveal events in the days of service which are bound to escape the memory in the cycle of events.

Let every man stand by the Depot Paper, a purely local enterprise and one which the new staff is hoping to make fully up to the E. T. D. standard.

VERILY, AN OCCUPATION.

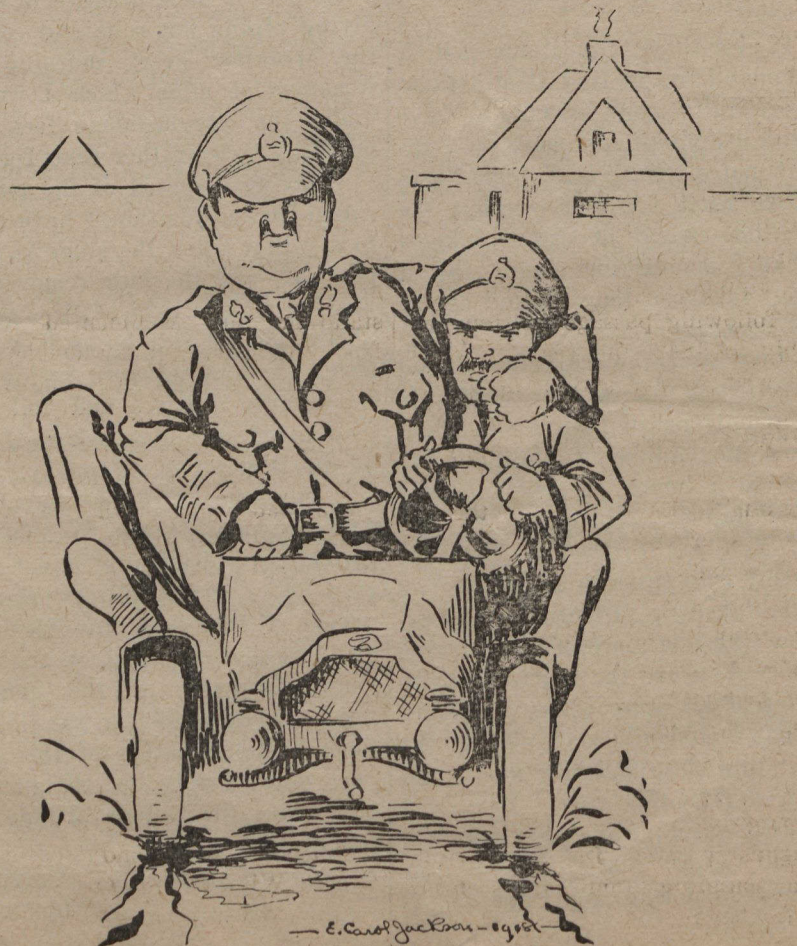
And Lo, a certain Sapper journeyed to the Pay Office for certain procedure. He made his way to the habitation of Lieutenant Orr who questioned him as to certain facts. And after some time the worthy officer spake:—

“What is your occupation?”

“Forming Fours,” answered the Sapper with a distant look.

Will Sapper A. E. Baker (No. ?) communicate with Spr. H. R. McKee 3030769, 2nd C.E.R.B. F. Coy., Seaford, Sussex, England.

THE NOON HOUR—AN IDYL OF THE IDLE.



— E. Carl Jackson —  
“Let her o'ut, Tom.”