

THE CHRISTMAS "LISTENING POST"

A Cheering Message to the Folks at Home

KEEP WELCOME SMILE READY

A Word From Head of Canadian Brigade—Some Humorous Military Additions Made to Webster's Dictionary

(By W. A. Willison, Staff Correspondent of the Canadian Press.) Somewhere in France, Dec. 13— "For the third time Christmas finds the Canadians under arms in the trenches of Flanders. What they have endured during the last three years; what they have hoped for, striven for—and in their thousands died for—is not yet in sight; but the spirit that carried the original Canadian division through the second battle of Ypres is still marching with the Canadian troops today through all the mud and slime—and hell—of the modern battlefield, and will march with them to the only goal that is worth striving for—peace and a real peace that will make a recurrence of this hideous nightmare impossible. "Berlin—But" in letters only in the thoughts of those who carry on.

"And to our own folks whose dearest wish was that we should be with them at the festive board this Christmas time, just the old, old message, 'A Merry Christmas and a Glad New Year's from the bottom of our hearts; a Merry Christmas in the real true sense of the word—not the abolition of the old customs in the absence of loved ones, but the whole-hearted enjoyment of all that is worth while. Life is short and this old world too small for misery and long faceted for the brighter side of life and keep in training at smiling ready to welcome us back. And if in the midst of all you pause with sober faces and silently drink to those who have

COUGHS WASTE ENERGY

Careful physicians always point out that every cough wears human strength and tears down the body's resistive powers. The reason:

SCOTT'S EMULSION

is always best for coughs is that it peculiarly soothes the tender membranes while its rich, creamy food rebuilds the tissues to avert bronchitis and lung trouble. Scott's is medicinal food.

paid the utmost price, remember that they too—those happy, cherry lips cut down on the very threshold of life—would wish it so.

Such is the message which constitutes the only editorial in the Christmas number of The Listening Post, that famous chronicle of the battalion of the division. Read it well, Canada, for the heart of not only a regiment but a nation's army is in it.

And here is another message from the brigadier of this famous brigade who writes "from every member of the brigade to anxious hearts at home, to assure them they have our constant love and devotion, our daily thoughts, and our wishes for a Merry and Happy Christmas. "Keep the Home Fires Burning." "Keep our places in your hearts and in our homes fresh and fragrant, for though long years and long leagues separate us, our love and loyalty know no space of time nor distance."

The letter from Brigadier-General, C. M. G., D. S. O., continues with a message to the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of his brigade, a message which ends: "It is three years, over, since the first Canadian contingent sailed away from Canada, and they now march silently over the roads and lanes of France and Flanders because their thoughts are of homes and loved ones far away. They know that fathers, mothers, wives, children and sweethearts are also thinking of them and working for them. "Happy Canada which possesses such well-loved homes; fortunate country with such loving fathers and mothers, such faithful wives, such devoted children, such affectionate sweethearts! So long as Canada possesses such a people, her sons will be ready to go to the end of the world to fight for them, to die for them, and they will love them forever."

There is more in the general's letter. It deals with the record of the brigade and what is not said in the letter is said in eight solid pages which follow it—

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eight pages devoted to the honor list of the brigade.

So ends the seriousness and The Listening Post is again the careless, happy journal of the firing line. Profusely illustrated with cartoons, filled with stories and jokes, it is a publication to do honor even to such a battalion as that which produces it. It is impossible in this space to give more than an indication of the rest of its Christmas contents. There are, for instance, the following additions—illustrated—Webster's Dictionary:

"Private—Known as a 'Tommy.' Liven on bully and macoonie. Goes out in all weathers; does all the work and most of the grousing. Can drink a little, swear a lot, and can parlay enough to get a cognac out of hours." "Lance-Corporal—Commonly known as 'Lance-a-Jack.' Sports a dog's leg on each arm, and is as important (in his own estimation) as a general who has just pulled off a successful attack. Swells up all over for about a week after getting his stripe, and during that time makes the 'Tommy' sit up and take notice."

"Corporal—Wears two stripes on each arm. His fund of knowledge enables him to rush most of his work on to the newly-made lance-jack. Always picks out the best pieces of bacon in his section's ration for himself." "Sergeant—Three stripes. Never does anything he can get out of. His main object in life seems to lie in the direction of his platoon's rum ration. They are giving separate billets to the rest of their platoon, so that the junior sergeant is blamed for everything that goes wrong."

"Lieut.-Colonel—Crown, star and three stripes. He holds in New's Hall, 100 winking an eyelid. Is reported to be andorous and did run away from the king's enemies in place of those that had perished." Said hirings did not do the O. C.'s hand for hiding in havens deep in the bowels of the earth. But as they strutted about the town, Fritz and his pals were so many cannon balls, so that some amongst them were slain as they mocked and derided the men who might fight the king's enemies in place of those that had perished."

And then did the hirings of our O. C.'s hand come from their holes in the sky, for they were not to be replaced by their losses in the battle. But this is enough. The Listening Post is full of good things. For instance, there are a few kind words on the subject of non-combatants at the front, so many years of a more or less deplorable nature, much in short that is of the interest and the help to the trenches and that may or may not give thought to the gravely minded at home.

FIG SEN

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C. O.'s will not learn all the old soldier tricks before they get their third stripes. And as they run on, The Coy. Q. M. S. lives at the transport lines and juggles with his company's rations. The company sergeant-major "looks over his shoulder" for the troops and removes therefrom any articles of value or liable to have injurious effect on the constitution of the Tommies. The regimental sergeant-major is "known as the terror of the ranks" and is in charge of the "subs" of the work in the battalion. It is abused by all senior N. C. O.'s, W. O.'s and senior officers. Draws his pay for the benefit of his platoon.

"Lieutenant—Two stars and one ring. Commonly known as the "Sub." Does most of the work in the battalion. It is abused by all senior N. C. O.'s, W. O.'s and senior officers. Draws his pay for the benefit of his platoon.

"Captain—Three stars and two rings. Usually commands a company but sees that the 'subs' do all the work necessary to run it. On the march rides a horse, doesn't carry a pack but sees that everybody else carries one.

"Medical Officer—Rank as captain. As necessary additions to cure colds, set bones, and listen to the varied stories of men who want to ride on the ambulance wagon. Draws his pay for the benefit of his platoon.

"Major—Always has some pet hobby—sometimes salvaging, sometimes digging. Is blamed for everything that goes wrong."

"Lieut.-Colonel—Crown, star and three stripes. He holds in New's Hall, 100 winking an eyelid. Is reported to be andorous and did run away from the king's enemies in place of those that had perished."

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ESTIMATES GERMANS HAVE 3,000,000 FIGHTING MEN ON ALL FRONTS

The New York World's Paris correspondent cables:

German combatant forces on all fronts are estimated at 3,150,000 by the military office of 12,126 de Paris. He estimates the present total strength of the German army is 5,000,000. Non-combatant units, which he says total 2,870,000 men, are needed by Germany for guarding the frontier, occupying invaded territories and maintaining the long lines of communication.

"There are now exactly 154 divisions on the Anglo-French front," he writes. "Each division has only three regiments of infantry, to each of which there are only two or three battalions. These divisions count only upon a maximum effective of 850 combatants. Thus for the infantry there are only a maximum of 4,850 rifles to a division. If special troops, artillery, engineers, general staffs and other services are added a German division possesses scarcely 12,000 men all told.

The general total combatant forces on the western front, including army corps and army organizations, amount to about 2,900,000 men, a figure considerably lower than that of the Franco-British armies. The 115 divisions, of which 77 are German, opposed to the Russians and Roumans on the eastern front have been reduced thus far only to 118, but each division has been greatly diminished by withdrawals of individual units. The Austrians have weakened their divisions in the same manner. Without counting recent levies made of the 77 German divisions, there remain on the eastern front 1,000,000 Germans.

"To Italy, Germany has sent in support of 45 Austrian divisions only seven French divisions, a figure considerably lower than that of the Franco-British armies. The 115 divisions, of which 77 are German, opposed to the Russians and Roumans on the eastern front have been reduced thus far only to 118, but each division has been greatly diminished by withdrawals of individual units. The Austrians have weakened their divisions in the same manner. Without counting recent levies made of the 77 German divisions, there remain on the eastern front 1,000,000 Germans.

An estimate of Austria-Hungary's army strength, given in an Associated Press despatch from French army headquarters, places it at 1,200,000. The total war strength of the Dual Empire before the war was 8,600,000. The strength of the Austro-German forces in Italy, according to official despatches from Rome to Washington, is 840,000 men.

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A. Morin, expert tailor for ladies and gents, 32 Germania; small rent. 1-15.

60c. Six boys' winter overcoats for sale at cost price—Turner, out of high rent district, 440 Main. T.F.

Wear—Ever! Aluminum Gas Range Specialties

Small & Son are offering diamond rings during their fire sale at greatly reduced prices, from \$12 to \$100. T.F.

NOTICE

A meeting of the St. John county council will be held on Tuesday evening, Jan. 15, at 8 o'clock in New's Hall, 100 Dufferin Row, West End. All well-wishers are especially invited to attend this meeting.

MASS MEETING

There will be a mass meeting in Centenary Methodist church under the auspices of the Bible Society, Tuesday evening, Jan. 15, at 8 o'clock. T.F.

NOTICE

Unions Government Club. All interested are invited to attend a meeting at old Conservative Club Rooms, South Market Street, on Tuesday evening, 18th, for purpose of organizing Unions Club. 7172-1-16

NOTICE TO WEIR OWNERS

Special meeting of St. John weir owners will be held in New's Hall, 100 Dufferin Row, West Side, Tuesday, January 15, at 8 p. m. Matters of importance will be taken up at this meeting and the attendance of all weir owners is requested. Robert Carson. 71453-1-16.

ARE THEY PREPARING A RETREAT?

Reports from Belgium are to the effect that the Germans, not satisfied with the heavy taxes laid on the inhabitants of that unhappy country and regular collection under pretense of meeting the natural expenses of any administration, are now systematically completing the process of removing to Germany portable property of every kind. The asserted purpose of the robbers is the utter ruin of Belgium in order that for many a years after the war they may not be industrial competitors of their present masters.

The theory is entirely plausible, if any be needed beyond that of a characteristic desire on the part of the Germans to take from non-Germans whatever they like. It is not surprising that the stripping of Belgium may have another significance—it may mean that the German think that at no time in the past did they may withdraw from that country under military compulsion and that they are determined to occupy it, to deprive their present enemies of advantages that might be derived from a chance of more or less speedy restoration to prosperity. They may be doing, that is, exactly what they did in France before withdrawing to the so-called Hindenburg line—creating a desert for the never-to-be-forgotten foe to occupy after themselves.

The utter ruin of Belgium is hardly compatible with an intention to remain in it permanently, or even long.

OPEN NOSTRILS! END A COLD OR CATARRH

How To Get Relief When Head and Nose are Stuffed Up.

Count fifty! Your cold in head or catarrh disappears. Your clogged nostrils will open, the air passages of your head will clear and you can breathe freely. No more suffering, hawking, mucous discharge, dryness or headache; no struggling for breath at night.

Get a small bottle of Ely's Cream Balm from your druggist and apply a little of this fragrant antiseptic cream in your nostrils. It penetrates through every air passage of the head, soothing and healing the swollen or inflamed mucous membrane, giving you instant relief. Head colds and catarrh yield like magic. Don't stay stuffed-up and miserable—relief is sure.

The first contribution towards the building fund of the new church was announced in St. David's King street east, yesterday by the pastor, Rev. J. MacKegan, in the gift of \$100 from J. Fred Belyea. Mr. MacKegan spoke very highly of the contribution, coming as it did from one who was not a member of the congregation.

SALE NOW ON!

AT 22 CANTERBURY STREET

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GRACIOUS RECOGNITION OF THE SELF-SACRIFICING COURAGE OF THE SPLENDID CANADIANS WHO HAVE DONNED THE KHAKI

NOW READY FOR DELIVERY

To the Fathers, Mothers, Brothers and Sisters of those who are in the Army.

The leading newspapers of Canada recognizing that there has not up to the present been any suitable "Recognition" Badge prepared for use of those relatives of the men who have gone, or who are about to go to the front, have arranged that a series of splendid, graceful and most appropriate badges be gotten out to fill this long felt want.

With that end in view, the firm of Henry Birks & Sons, Limited, of Montreal, were approached on the matter, and the most attractive badges possible to manufacture, now ready for those entitled to wear them, are the result.

The fact that all these badges have been manufactured by Henry Birks & Sons, Limited, means that they are the very best in beauty of design, in gracefulness, wearing qualities, and material used. "Birks Quality" guarantee makes further comment unnecessary.

These badges are in bronze, suitable in shape and size and conform in detail to the illustrations herewith shown.



Members of the families of the men who have enlisted in the magnificent army Canada has raised to aid in freeing the world of despotism can now secure these badges by making use of the Order Form below, and they cannot be gotten in any other way. These badges in bronze are not on sale elsewhere in Canada except by the newspapers interested.

Brother, Son, Father, Husband Buttons, 25c. each. Pins, 30c. each.

If sent by mail add 3c. extra for postage. If by registered mail add 8c. extra.

Coupon form for ordering badges, including fields for name, address, and payment details.

Cut off this coupon; indicate the manner in which you desire your emblem sent to you and mail or bring to our office together with the necessary amount of money to cover.

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Royal Household, 66 lbs. \$12.40 Royal Household, 98 lb. bags. 8.10

Royal Household, 24 lb. bags. 1.60 Victor, Manitoba blend, 66 lbs. 12.00

Victor, Manitoba blend, 98 lb. 5.90 Five Roses Flour, 66 lbs. 12.50

Five Roses, 98 lb. bags. 6.15 4 lb. best Rolled Oats. 25c.

3 cans Evaporated Milk. 25c. 1 lb. Comp. Cream Tartar. 30c.

3 pkgs. Corn Flaking. 27c. Chase & Sanborn's Coffee, per 1 lb. 35c.

Small, 9c. can, 3 cans 25c. Mayflower Salmon, 1s, 30c. \$3.20 doz.

Pink Salmon. 18c. and 20c. can Capital Coffee in cans, 1s. 35c. Otomargarine, per lb. 38c.

Sauer Kraut. 7c. 4 lbs. 25c. Swiss Cheese, Ammonia, per pkg. 5c.

3 bottles Lemon or Vanilla. 25c. 2 bottles Tomato Catsup. 25c.

Apples, 25c., 30c., 40c. and 50c. peck. Fancy Oranges. 40c. and 50c. doz. Grape Fruit. 9c., 3 for 25c.

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Beef Roast 18 and 20 cts. lb. Beefsteak 25 Cents lb. Corned Beef 16 Cents lb.

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Peas 15c. can, \$1.70 doz. Peaches 18c. can, \$2.10 doz.

Pears 18c. can, \$2.15 doz. Lobster, 1/2s. 25c. can

Lobster, 1s. 37c. can. Olives 10c. bottle up

2 bottles Worcester Sauce 25c. 2 bottles Tomato Catsup 25c.

Mixed Pickles 15c. bottle Chow Pickles 15c. bottle

3 tins Evaporated Milk 5c. pkg. Knorr's Gelatine 25c. pkg.

Jamaica Oranges 35c. doz. up Grape Fruit 5 for 25c.

6 lb. best Onions 5 for 25c.