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The Regiment Controversy.

THE CASE OF THE "BLUE PUTTEES."
 December 11, 1917.
 Editor Evening Telegram, City.

Sir:—
 Please find attached copy of letter forwarded to-day to the "Daily Star" in relation to an article which appeared in the "Daily Star" of 30th November.

I am, yours faithfully,
 W. F. RENDELL, Major, C.S.O.,
 for Minister of Militia.

Dec. 10th, 1917.
 Editor Daily Star, City.

With reference to the article which appeared in your paper of Friday, 30th Nov., under the heading "Is This True," and subsequent correspondence, I have the honor to forward you the attached statements made by Major W. F. Rendell, C.S.O., Det. Militia, Major Montgomerie, D.O.C., Det. Militia, Lieut. G. G. Byrne, M.C., and Lieut. Bethune. With the exception of Major Montgomerie, all these officers have seen Active Service with both the first and second Battalions and make their statements through knowledge of the actual facts.

Other officers, at present in the City, namely: Major G. T. Carly, Lieut. R. Herder, Lieut. H. Maddock, and Lieut. J. Bennett, have also been requested to make their individual statements.

Further, I am enclosing copies of the messages received from Sir Edward Morris, Prime Minister, and it is hoped that these various statements will efficiently repudiate the charges made in the article previously referred to.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
 Your obedient servant,
 (Sgd.) J. R. BENNETT,
 Minister of Militia.

Major W. F. Rendell, Chief Staff Officer, states: "I have read the article in the Daily Star of Friday, 30 Nov., under the heading 'Is This True,' and consider it an absolute misstatement of the facts, and liable to prejudice relations and friends of the men of our regiment overseas. I left Ayr on the 29 August, and had been with the Second Battalion since the middle of March previously, as well as for a period of about five months during 1915. During both periods I was Second in Command in the 2nd Battalion, and therefore in a position to have a fair knowledge of the condition of affairs. The article referred to states that there are able bodied young men attached to Headquarters in Scotland who should be in the trenches in France. As far as I am aware there are three only with the Second Battalion who are fit (A.1.) and who have not seen Active Service, these men have been considered indispensable to the efficient handling of

of dissatisfaction would be overcome, as it is an easy matter owing to the fact that the officers and men are continually being returned from both the first and second Battalions, to get correct statements of the true facts as they exist with these Battalions."
 (Sgd.) W. F. RENDELL,
 Major 1st Nfd. Regt.

Dec. 10th, 1917.
 D.O.C. states: "With reference to the article in the Daily Star of Friday, Nov. 30th, I have no knowledge of conditions at the front, and my experience of Ayr has been limited to delivering drafts from Headquarters. I am not acquainted with the procedure in connection with sending drafts to the front. It was stipulated in Ayr from November 1915 to January of 1916, during which period there were no men back from the front, the Regiment on Active Service at that time being at Gallipoli.

During this period that I was in Scotland, and at different times thereafter, when I was in charge of drafts to be delivered there, I found that the Officer Commanding, showed a keen interest in the welfare of the Regiment.

While there in December, 1915, there was some little friction between the members of our Regiment and the civil authorities, and it was chiefly owing to the energetic steps taken by the Officer Commanding on behalf of the Regiment, that a better feeling was brought about.

I have always heard him spoken of in the highest terms by the non-commissioned officers and men who have served under him at all times. The only thing that has caused the welfare of the men was concerned.

(Sgd.) A. MONTGOMERIE,
 Major 1st Nfd. Regt.

Lieut. G. G. Byrne, M.C., states:—
 1. That I have read the article in question, and I have no objection in saying that the writer has grossly and willfully misrepresented the actual facts.

2. That with regard to the charges which he makes against the Depot at Ayr, they are unjust and without foundation. To my knowledge, no soldier has ever been sent on service from the Depot unless he was recommended by the Medical Authorities. When a man is discharged from Hospital, he goes on furlough; meanwhile the report of his Medical Board is forwarded to the Depot—every man is boarded before being discharged from the Hospital, and it is by this report of the Medical Board that the Authorities at the Depot are guided. Everybody in the Regiment knows that a returned soldier is treated decently at the Depot, and that he is not asked to go through the strenuous routine of the training ground.

I have known a returned soldier to be put on the regular schedule of parades, as laid down for all men training to go on active service from the Depot. I have seen no man "fitted" by the Medical Authorities, or course when a man is classed as "fit" he is shown as such on the weekly return, which is rendered to War Office, and he is then available for active service once more. We all lament the fact that the boys have to go back to the firing line a second and, in many cases, a third time, but it is necessary, and the boys know they are needed, and are ever ready to do duty, and to use the best preparation one so often heard the boys using in this respect "Cast as you find." The procedure with regard to sick-officers is practically the same as an officer is passed "fit" by his Medical Board he is posted as such in the War Office, and from that moment he is entirely in their hands, and he knows he will be sent out as soon as a decrease occurs in the 1st Battalion. The writer of said article endeavors to give the impression that there are many of all ranks who have been in Ayr since the formation of the Depot, and have never seen active service. To my knowledge there are four there who answer this description: one is permanently unfit and is performing important duties as a skilled mechanic, and the other three are doing valuable staff work and their employment is approved by the War Office.

That with regard to the conditions in France, there never was a time when we suffered to the extent of being "shirtless and sockless." That as to furlough in France, no soldier expects more than his ten days, and then only when his turn comes—unless he gets away through illness or wounds. Officers and men know that when they join the 1st Battalion in France they come directly under the Orders of the Brigade Headquarters, and consequently the matter of their duties or of furlough cannot possibly be subject to outside influence.

That as a whole, the article is false and misleading and will be repudiated by every man who has seen service, and that personally I find it hard to believe it was written by a "Blue Puttee" or any man in our Regiment.

(Sgd.) G. G. BYRNE,
 Lieut. 1st Nfd. Regiment.

Officers Mess,
 2nd Nfd. Regiment.

Lieut. John G. Bethune states:—
 I have secured a copy of the "Daily Star" of November, 30th, 1917, and very carefully read the article headed "IS THIS TRUE?" and can without the slightest hesitation say "IT IS NOT TRUE" either in the statement made regarding "Blue Puttee Men" in France or at Ayr, Scotland. To my knowledge, sir, there is not a "Blue Puttee" man in France who has been long enough on continuous Active Service to entitle him to furlough to visit England who has not had it and many have had furlough several times.

As regards the condition at Ayr, the writer of the article is very much misinformed or has set himself to write a deliberate mis-statement, and personally I cannot bring myself to believe that the article in question was written by one of them—for I feel sure that this article will be more repudiated by "Blue Puttee Men" than by others.

Our "Blue Puttee Men" are as fine a crowd of soldiers as any country could produce, and I have known them and not only in one occasion, to go to the Orderly Room and insist on being sent to France again when

Our Volunteers.

The following offered themselves for enlistment at Headquarters yesterday:

Claude King, St. John's.
 H. M. Piercy, Winterton, T. B.
 Ernest Ivany, Bell Island.
 Frank Walsh, City.
 Edward Shaw, Little Heart's East, T.B.
 John Kelly, Grand Falls.
 Enlisted for the Second Time.
 Lewis Rodgers, 84 Lime Street.

Christmas Cheer for the Poor.

Lieut.-Colonel Otway begs to acknowledge receipt of the following amounts and to thank the kind friends:

Will all who have received an appeal letter kindly respond in order that the provisions for the parcels may be ordered.

The Salvation Army have no Funds apart from the result of this appeal, and thus is unable to prepare the parcels until the money needed is received.

It will be remembered that since last year the cost of goods have considerably advanced, hence extra money is needed, otherwise the parcels must be smaller.

It will be a very sad calamity if the suffering poor of St. John's are this year left uncared for.

Contributions to Date.

\$50—A. H. Murray, Esq.
 \$20—T. M. Winter, Esq. also fifty for Christmas Tree for poor children.
 \$10—W. J. Cashin, Esq., D. Monroe, Esq.
 \$5.00 each—J. Browning, Esq., W. T. Ellis, Esq., Hon. J. Harvey, W. J. Higgins, Esq., H. F. Goodridge, Esq., Hon. D. Morison, Major Montgomerie, J. C. Marshall, Esq., Newfoundland Clothing Co., W. P. Monroe, Esq., R. Watson, Esq., R. Templeton, Esq., P. Templeton, Esq., E. Templeton, Esq.
 \$3.00 each—P. H. Cowan, Anonymous.
 \$2.00 each—W. H. Crowley, Esq., Mrs. W. Cook, T. B. Chitt, Esq., H. Kelley, Esq., Dr. Lehr, Percie Johnson, Esq., J. Jackson, Esq., W. H. Rendell, Esq., J. D. Ryan, Esq.
 \$1.00 each—Anonymous, D. Munn, F. McNamara, Esq., one chest of tea, B. Wood and Co., candy.

CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS FOR THE POOR
 141, LeMarchant, Road, St. John's, Nfld.

To the Ladies of St. John's, I will possibly be known to you that the Salvation Army is trying to arrange to give 350 Christmas Parcels to the Poor. My husband, Colonel Otway, is asking the gentlemen of the city to subscribe a Christmas donation towards this worthy cause. The purpose of my addressing you is to lay before you the following suggestion:

As a mother I feel very keenly for the many poor people who, unless they are assisted, will not have a Christmas pudding, and the thought has occurred to me that with our Christmas parcel, what a joyous surprise it would be if each contained a small Christmas pudding.

There is much real suffering just now among the poor, especially the widows, the aged, the sick and afflicted. The high cost of living has brought real privation and distress, and I fear the outlook for Christmas Cheer is very poor indeed, unless they are assisted.

Would you like to contribute a small Christmas pudding? We shall all enjoy our Christmas the more if we can feel we have tried to make others happy, especially the dear little ones. When, therefore, you are making your puddings this year, could you lay aside a small one for the poor. How the "Tiny Tins" will rejoice when the parcel is opened and Dickens' "Christmas story" once more repeated.

Our Girl Guards are being arranged to call for any of the above gifts.

If you would prefer to contribute a money gift our members of the "Home League" would be pleased to make the puddings.

If you have any cast off garments, we shall be pleased to arrange for the same to be distributed.

I hope you will not object to my appeal to you. I only do so because I desire to help the needy.

Our Christmas parcels are given without any denominational distinction. We only try to remember the words of our Lord: "Inasmuch as ye did it to the least of these, my little ones, Ye did it unto Me."

On receipt of a Post Card to the above address we will arrange for a Girl Guard to call, or a phone message, "619" will reach me.

Thanking you in anticipation,
 Yours in Christian Service,
 (MRS.) FRANCES OTWAY.

Warner's Rust-Proof Corsets.
 A Work-a-Day Corset as well as for Dress.



Warner's Corsets are made to wear, not to rust, break or tear. You may pay all kinds of money for a Corset but you will never have a better fitting, a better wearing, or a more comfortable Corset than a Warner's.

We can give you any Warner's style that is correct for fashion and your figure, and we confidently expect to fill every Corset requirement with a Warner's Rust-Proof, so remarkable are they in shape, comfort and wear.

Price: \$1.50 per pair up.

Marshall Bros

EGG POWDER, 10 lb. tins
 1 lb. equal in volume to 4 dozen eggs.

RAISINS
 Seedless, Seeded, (Sun Maid) Sultana.

PEELS:
 Citron, Lemon, Orange.

Shelled Nuts, Pure Gold Icing, Baker's Chocolate, Nonpareils, Glace Cherries.

SODAS:
 TIP-TOP (Harvey's), JERSEY CREAM (McCormack's).

FRUITS:
 (This) APRICOTS, PEARS, PEACHES, PINE-APPLE.

Vegetables:
 (Glass) BEET, STRING BEANS, TINY PEAS, COINS.

Bluenose Butter:
 10 lb 1 lb, 5 lb, and 25 lb. Tins.

BACON:
 BEECHNUT, CEDAR RAPIDS, SPERRY & BARNES, LOCAL.

Bird's CUSTARD POWDER.

BOWRING BROTHERS, Limited,
 Phone 332. GROCERY DEPT. Phone 332.

WE are still showing a splendid selection of : : : TWEEDS and SERGES.

No scarcity at **Maunder's.**

However, we beg to remind our customers these goods are selling rapidly, and cannot be replaced at the same price.



John Maunder,
 Tailor and Clothier St. John's, N.F.I.

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Gas 's your ever ready helper right in your home—no begging for delivery, no delays in getting it. One gets so used to it that one is apt to forget how helpful it is. Take a little trouble. Study its uses; get to understand how to obtain every particle of help you can from it.

Remember that for Light, Heat or Cooking it has no equal. If you have any little difficulties with it, bring them to the Gas Office. Our advice and help will be most readily given.

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Stafford's Prescription "A"—
 Cure for diseases of the Stomach: Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Catarrh, Gastritis and Nervous Dyspepsia.—nov6,17

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