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THE GROUCH.

Like the poor and the plumber, the grouch is always with us; and like the painter he is hard to get rid of. We are all "grouches"; it is just a question of degree, perhaps just a question of taste, and maybe palate!

It is natural for man to "kick", it is by this means he gets what he wants, but he has to have others with him in order to attain his end; and, however contradictory it may seem, it is by kicking that his ends are often defeated. In other words the kick must be timely and well directed in order to gain that popularity necessary to give it the impetus whereby satisfactory results are obtained.

It is easy for us now, with our present parliamentary system—(which, by the way is only a product of the "grouch" as we will go on to show)—and press facilities to attain many of our ends. And what may be termed the modern grouch is to some extent a product of the press. The chief difficulty is to distinguish between the malcontent and the "grouch".

Frequently we can differentiate between the two by the depth of popular feeling. The malcontent is shunned on account of his pertinacity towards his "pet aversion",—his vapourings being directed by his own petty selfishness. On the other hand the "grouch" or "kicker" has a healthier and wider outlook and by far a more magnanimous viewpoint;—having, as his objective, the righting of a wrong which he has in common with others, and from which he and others have suffered. So that after all the "grouch" is more or less a healthy individual whose failings may "lean to virtue's side"!

We are not without grouches in the E. T. D. Our malcontents are, we thank God, few and far between; and we could wish they were few still: although we could easily dispense with the insidious malcontent we are ready at all times to entertain the "grouch". For it seems to us if there was no "grouch" there would be neither progress nor conditions tending towards progress. The writings of Carlyle, that greatest of all grouches, were after all one of the most potent influences for moral reform in the nineteenth century.

Magna-Charta, the first great charter of English liberty and subsequent reform, was obtained by the great Barons' grouch which resulted in the battle of Runnymede and which may be said to be the foundation of our present democracy,—whose principles the Allies are now engaged in defending over half a world.

THE BEST SELLER OF THE SEASON.

Sgt. Henson Makes His Bow In World Of Letters.

It's a long while since we have heard from that patron saint of all good sappers, that presiding genius of the Men's Mess,—to wit: Sgt. Henson.

The advance sheets of a new and useful compendium on "The Culinary Art in War" have just reached us. Apparently, the Sergeant is not by any means satisfied with the make up of the present text book—"Camps, Billets and Cooking" and proposes to see to it that something is done about the matter.

After giving Sgt. Henson's maiden effort the careful consideration which it undoubtedly merits, we feel amply justified in recommending the book to all officers and sappers who desire to rise in that greatest of all professions,—the Profession of Arms!

The Sergeant now reveals for the first time, many of those hidden mysteries of the Men's Mess which, for many months, have baffled the enquiring minds of all who have had occasion to frequent that popular emporium. Indeed, in spots, the pages are strangely reminiscent of that thrilling work, "Secrets of the German War Office".

Sgt. Henson has a neat talent in matters pertaining to nourishment, which has often met with professional recognition.

In an appendix under the subtitle, "Pièces de résistance", a number of special recipes are given for use only on occasions which demand something quite out of the ordinary. The following are some of the designs for pies and things which have been selected quite at random. Unfortunately diagrams and perspectives have been omitted.

Recipe for an Ash Cake.

Take a lot of water and add to it a lot of coarse Indian meal, and about a quarter of a lot of salt. Mix well together, kneed into the form of a "pone", and let the pone stand a while, not on its edge but the other way. Rake away a place among the embers, lay it there, and cover it an inch deep with hot ashes. When it is done, remove it; blow off all the ashes but one layer; butter that one and eat.

N.B.—No camp should ever be without this talisman. It has been noticed that sappers never ask for a second bit.

Recipe for E. T. D. Pie.

To make this excellent breakfast dish, proceed as follows: Take a sufficiency of water and a sufficiency of flour and construct a bullet-proof dough. Work this into the form of a disk, with the edges turned up some three-fourths of an inch. Toughen and kiln-dry for a couple of days in a mild but unvarying temperature. Construct a cover for this redoubt in the same way and of the same material. Fill with stewed dry apples; aggravate with cloves and slabs of citron; add two portions of mulligan, then solder on the lid and set in a safe place until it petrifies. Serve cold at breakfast, making sure that the Orderly Officer tries it first.

Recipe for 'Vinegar Factory' Coffee.

Take a barrel of water and bring it to a boil; rub a chicory berry against a coffee berry, then convey the former into the water. Continue the boiling and evaporation until the intensity of the flavor and the aroma of the coffee and chicory has been diminished to a proper degree; then set aside to cool. Now unharness the remains of a once cow from the plow, insert them in a hydraulic press, and when you shall have acquired a teaspoonful of that pale blue juice, locally regarded as milk, modify the malignity of its strength by adding a bucket of tepid water and have the bugler blow 'Pick 'em up'. Mix the above beverage in a cold cup, partake with moderation, and keep a wet rag around your head to guard against over-excitement.

To Carve Fowls in the St. Johns' Fashion.

Use a club and avoid the joints.

OBEY THAT IMPULSE!

Get a copy of "Knots and Lashings" to send to the folks back home. You may be sure they will be glad to get it. The postage is one cent.

AFTERNOON TEA IN BALDWIN HALL!

On Saturday afternoon a number of the young ladies of St. James Church will serve afternoon tea in the Baldwin Hall from four to six o'clock. The modest sum of 25 cents will entitle you to an excellent cup of tea and other incidentals essential to all properly organized afternoon teas. Let us have a full turnout from the E. T. D.!!