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## ALL IN THE YEAR'S WORK.

In this time of warfare and rapidly succeeding changes, a year is a long incursion into the future and charged with immense possibilities. To the Editor, the work of a year is a long dip into the past and laden with the ever-present grind of filling our columns with matter suitable to its class and mission. Like the tax bill to the civilian or an Inoculation Parade to the soldier there is no escape from the insistent weekly clamour for "copy" that comes from the printer of such a journal as ours. It is not possible to pass up to him any old thing that comes along for presently those people, and their name is legion, who are exceedingly wise after the fact, turn up after a paper, to which they have made no contribution, is out to inquire why certain matters were not chronicled, noted or featured. As we review a year of publication we can remember things of that sort and add by way of future improvement in such particulars that those who wish to see anything stated in cold type should get busy and send us their version.

## AN EVENTFUL YEAR.

It has been the privilege of "Knots and Lashings" to serve the Canadian Engineer Training Depot throughout a year replete with stirring incidents and crowded with varied experiences. Early in the year came the Dominion elections and the free advertising that we got, including a facsimile of a front page of one of our issues in the Montreal Daily press, brought us considerable notoriety. We will not dilate upon that incident save to remark how the finding of the Royal Commission enables us to fall back upon the old adage,— "All's well that ends well" and we have no cause for misgivings as to the ending of that incident. The misgivings are elsewhere.

While our initial aim, like that of the "Canadian Sapper", published monthly by the Canadian Engineer Training Centre at Seaford, England, was to serve the Depot, we soon found ourselves utilized as the organ for several other units of the C.E.F. In rapid succession came the men of Alberta, the Central Ontario and Western Ontario units, the Machine Gun Section and last and most prolonged of our visitors the Manitoba men in the Quarantine Camp. Good men and merry comrades, all of them, whose presence converted the Depot, for the time being, into a kind of concentration camp and made no small demands upon our space and our admiration. We only mention in passing the stalwart thousands of Poles who assembled in St. Johns last winter, passing on after a too brief stay but not before they had commended themselves to us as stalwart and ardent soldiers.

During the year the Depot has exceeded its previous record in the number of officers and men trained and sent overseas. Huge drafts have gone from us and drained off much of the energy of our editorial staff. The outstanding event of our internal affairs was the excursion of a few hundred Engineers to the Ancient Capital last winter where their active service was appreciated and their return to the Depot welcomed by themselves as well as by us. While some of our

men were in Amherst, N.S., we kept in touch with them and now the end of the year finds us following the men who have yielded to Siberian lures and are in the Great West.

## RECREATION.

Our sporting editor has had his work cut out for him. No one can review our files without appreciating the attention given to fostering manly and wholesome recreation and sports in the Depot. This line of activity has been most successful and now with our new Cinema machine, our recreation rooms and the plans under way to co-operate with civilians in social recreations, we feel sure that we shall have a more extended story to tell during the coming year under this head.

## THE EPIDEMIC.

In common with military camps all over the continent we have passed through a most trying season of illness, saddened by the passing away of so many of our comrades. The casualty list at the Depot has appeared in our columns, but we have not been able to say as fully as we would wish how creditable has been the fight that was put to stay the ravages of disease. In proportion to the number of cases of influenza in the Depot, we are confident that the number of fatalities was considerably below the average in such cases. No small amount of the credit for this result is due to the splendid and faithful work of the Medical Staff and the Nursing Sisters. The heroic work of the Nurses sent or stationed here will not soon be forgotten.

## EPILOGUE.

It remains for us to make as full and frank and grateful acknowledgement as we can of the co-operation and assistance which we have received from all ranks at the Depot throughout the year's work. We are greatly indebted to them. We are thankful for the help from contributors, the patronage of advertisers, the work of reporters, the services of the Band in selling the paper and the appreciation and indulgence extended to us by our readers. We rely upon a continuance of this support, in consideration of the cause which it is our aim to serve, and we turn, on this anniversary, from the review of the past to the problems of the future, resolved to do our best and "Carry On".

## CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of  
"Knots and Lashings".

Sir:—

Some few weeks ago in your paper, you published an article reflecting on the ladies of the Church guilds for not having come forward to help out with the serious epidemic then prevailing at the military camp in this town. We, the ladies of the Guild, have waited to reply, hoping that some one would have enough appreciation for the work which we have hitherto done in connection with the Church and the soldiers, to take up the cudgels in our defence. However, this has not been done, so we wish to make a little explanation in our own behalf.

We feel that in justice to those ladies whom you blame, you should have found out something of their circumstances before judging them so harshly, because had you done so, you would have found that this same epidemic had struck in almost every home, and several of our officers were confined to their beds at the time of your writing, in fact in almost every home there was some sickness, so that no

matter how much the ladies might have wished to help had they known that their services were required, their doing so was entirely out of the question.

Again we knew that in several instances, offers of help had before that time been refused: one instance we knew of where two American nurses had gone up to the Barracks personally and been told there was no need of any outside help. So that it was a great surprise to us when we received such severe and uncalled for criticism.

We felt that those officers and men who have been in the Barracks for the last two years should have known us well enough to realize that they had our sympathy and good-will in every case where we could show it, but for the benefit of new-comers or out of town readers we make this explanation.

Secretary of the Guild.  
St. Johns, Oct. 28th, 1918.

Our Bert:—"What if we loses this bloomin' war after all, Bill."  
Old Bill:—"Well, all as I can say is the bloke what finds it is welcome to it."