## A Plea for the Soldier Candidate

We have come at last to a period where our returned men-both sail ors and soldiers-refuse to stand by and see the rights which are theirs by a double claim infringed by those in authority. Politicians and business men, small and great, seem alike in refusing to recognize their obligations to find employment for our exservice men, in exchange for all those years of comradeship in the hell of the trenches with mines under them and shots over them. God knows, they never turned their back to the foe, and we all of us know that many of those who survived out of the horrible crash and general ruin called war are not only crippled in body but also crippled in efficiency because that they are illiterate and untrained. There are about six hundred of ex-soldiers and sailors, and it is rumored that owing to being unable to pay their taxes one half of these men will be disenfranchised at the coming municipal election, and this brings me to my real purpose in writing this short article. Soldiers in this country are scarcely represented in spite of the growing strength of the G.W.V.A. Few or none of our returned lads have applied their energies in the direction of government. It is therefore an encouraging sign to find that one-Mr. Charles F. Garland-has offered himself as a contestant in the coming municipal election of councillors, and I think he is entitled to the support of this town, if only on the grounds that he is a war veteran, one of our Blue Puttees who served in Gallipoli and France, who was twice wounded, who fought nobly beside those other gallant lads of ours, who in 1914 signed on for the biggest job the world has ever engaged in. Apart from which Mr. Garland is one of the people and also one who has had a most excellent training for public work in that very up-to-date night school of journalism-The Daily News Office, where, under the tutelage of the chief of staff he has most surely acquired a fairly good working knowledge of civic and social life in St. John's, though he may never have mastered the intricacies of the higher education; yet very few of our successful men are any better off in that respect, and when all is said, an exsoldier who is a veteran of Gallipoli, a Blue Puttee, is entitled to set up. his claim for any post which he feels himself capable of filling. Can anyone asperse the claim of the soldier? I think not. By backing Mr. Garland this town will show that there exists desire to release our soldiers from

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