

## Notes and Comments

"THE Old Soldier," who writes in *The Regiment*, recently had a few things to say on the re-opening of the crusade by the anti-rum advocates in England. As the writer points out, Lord Roberts, one of the most practical and level-headed soldiers who ever wore uniform, and one of the greatest common-sense advocates of temperance, issued the rum ration to the men of his command in the South African campaign, and also countenanced extra issues when the latter were deemed necessary.

THE following terse tribute to the efficacy of the rum issue is taken from a soldier's letter (with his permission):—"When I first went up to the front line I used to refuse my issue of rum, but after three days there, I sure was after it, and have been chasing it ever since." This extract is not offered as an argument in favour of the much-appreciated winter ration.

IN this issue of the *Gazette* will be found the advertisement of the Maple Leaf Club, Charles Street, Berkeley Square, London, W. This is a residential club for Canadian N.C.O.'s and men. It is, as is explained in a letter received from Captain W. F. Watson, the Hon. Comptroller, not a "graft," but is maintained by the private subscriptions of prominent Canadians at home and abroad. The staff is made up of wounded First Division men. The main trouble, so some of the "boys" who have been on leave in London tell us, is that the Club is always full up. That in itself seems a good testimonial; and we understand that quite recently a large annex has been secured. As Captain Watson says: "It's a 'snap' for the boys if they only knew it," and winds up by saying that he hopes to see some of the First Brigade soon. Their Majesties King George and Queen Mary recently honoured the Club with a visit, and were much interested in the institution.

THE *Indianapolis Star* says:—"Judged by the offers he has made to Bulgaria, the Kaiser might be willing to give Canada to us if we would help him in the Balkans." Apparently Canada is as hard as ever to "annex." More than that, it looks as if we on our part were going to "annex" the United States, or at least the chiefest of its fighting men, Colonel Roosevelt to wit.

"FINDING work for returned soldiers is a duty that is likely to be relegated to the Provinces by the Dominion. The problem must be approached in the knowledge that the man given work gives more in return than he gets."—*Toronto Globe*. We might add that a soldier who has seen active service has given in that service more than ever he can hope to obtain by charity.

AN apology is due to Lieutenant E. R. Warburton, of A Company of the 4th Battalion. In an editorial note in our last issue, and acting on what we thought authentic information, we said that Mr. Warburton had succumbed to his recent wounds. This error was most unfortunate, and we deeply regret any inconvenience it may have caused the popular officer or his numerous friends, and we are more than glad to be able to deny the statement. We assure Mr. Warburton that his return to good health and to this Battalion

### EDITORIAL AND BUSINESS STAFF OF THE GAZETTE.

Editor - - - Pte. R. W. Trowsdale.  
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(But liable to be moved to Berlin at short notice).

would be sufficient compensation for the slight trouble of correcting, not one, but a thousand such errors. And Mr. Warburton, who has in full measure the gift of humour, will at least thank us, now that the incident is happily closed, for the distinction he shares with Mark Twain in having had his epitaph written before there was need of it!

ALREADY quite a number of full-blooded Indians are in the Canadian Contingents, either as officers or as privates. The striking appeal by the Chief of the Mohawks in the Council Chamber of the Six Nations at the Indian Reserve, near Brantford, Ont., is described by the *Globe*. He told how his eldest lad, working on the farm, hitched his horses to the fence one day and followed the Recruiting Sergeant; later he sailed with the First Contingent. Then a second son, and later a third boy, joined the King's colours,

and the Chief and his squaw were left alone to till the land. Drawing himself up proudly, the Chief reminded his hearers of an old Indian legend. An Iroquois who had been captured by an enemy tribe was given two alternatives—to seek freedom by passing through a path of fire which his captors had made, or remain behind with the women and children. That Iroquois never hesitated—he preferred the path of fire, with the honour and freedom it held out, to the ignominy and disgrace of remaining with the women. Then the Chief of the Mohawks gave the war cry of his tribe and sat down.

DURING 1915, Canadian soldiers earned the following decorations and medals on the field of battle:—Victoria Crosses, 6; Commanders of the Bath, 7; Commanders of St. Michael and St. George, 8; Red Cross, 1; Distinguished Service Order, 34; Military Cross, 30; Distinguished Conduct Medal, 75; Legion of Honour, 4; Russian Orders and Crosses, 42. Of this list, the First Infantry Brigade secured Victoria Cross, 1; C.B., 1; D.S.O., 5; M.C., 3; D.C.M., 14; and a number of Russian decorations.

Soldiers' Aid Commissions are to be formed in every Province of the Dominion, their primary purpose being the care of soldiers who have returned to Canada maimed, weakened, or permanently disabled as a result of active service. Thus has been relegated to the Provinces a duty which the Canadian Premier not so very long ago declared would be undertaken by the Federal Government. As Canadians on active service, and therefore vitally interested, we would like to know if the work is to be undertaken by the Provinces as a charity instead of as, it should be, a national and moral obligation?

The care of Canadian soldiers' teeth is to be accentuated by the appointment of a dental officer to every unit, or at least so the papers tell us. Every Battalion will therefore have its regular D.O. as well as M.O.

### CANADA

No land illum'd by yonder sun,  
Can more inspiring be than one  
Where my far visions roam  
O'er prairies wide, through forests grand,  
My love is thine, thou lavish land,  
Dear Canada, my home.

—BALFOUR.

In Australia, soldiers' canteens are run on the co-operative principle, every soldier being a shareholder.