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A NOTE OF WARNING.

Now that demobilization is in full swing, and the boys are returning to their homes, and civil occupations, let us utter a word of warning against the Spirit of unrest that seems to be latent all around, re-action from the tense feeling, that the fighting in the World-wide Conflict aroused seems to have set in; a good deal of dissatisfaction exists amongst Officers and Men, at various things in the Scheme of demobilization, that bear harshly and unduly upon them. Consequently, one hears a great deal of grumbling, and unfortunately we have to admit that there are grounds for complaints.

Let us remember "That evil is wrought more by want of thought than ever by want of heart". Things might have been done more tactfully and less harshly, and whilst we appreciate the desire of the Powers that be, to see that the men are returned to their homes as speedily as possible, more tact and diplomacy might easily have been used. And all would have departed in better spirits.

We were assured that all measures had been taken and schemes fully prepared for handling the men. When the time for demobilization arrived but all too suddenly the sponge was thrown up by the Merciless Hun. And, "Hey Presto! Where are the Schemes?"

Evidently, they were not quite matured, because the Cogs in the Wheel sometimes slip causing annoyance, and vexation. Of course, one admits that it is inevitable that mistakes will occur. Indeed, in our opinion, "the man who never made a mistake, never made anything" but it is very unfortunate that whilst there is this spirit of unrest, invisible but all around, these causes for dissatisfaction should arise, it is a thousand pities that either Officer, N.C.O. or Man should depart nursing a grievance, some grievances are avoidable others unavoidable.

One grievance that seems to be unjust, is the question of Clothing Allowance to the Officer, provision has been made for the men, but none for the Officer.

Now there is not such a gulf fixed between the Commission and the Ranks in Canada as exists in the Older Countries, as a matter of fact, they are all drawn from one stratum in Society, indeed, until quite recently the Senior N.C.O. was better off than the married Subaltern, yet no provision or allowance is made to the Officer upon resuming Civil Life; this in our opinion is decidedly unfair, and is working harshly in many instances, a sore question with the men was the retention of their Uniform upon discharge a large percentage desired to retain their clothing, but unfortunately had to leave them

behind, these little irritating things small as they appear, all add to the spirit of unrest that is surging around us. We remember the celebrated "muddling phrase" of the Rt. Hon. Walter Long who was a member of the Conservative administration in England during the South African War.

When the government was accused of "muddling things" he blandly stated in the House of Commons, "Well, gentlemen, we'll muddle through somehow." Yes, but muddling is not business, and surely with the innumerable examples of "How not to do things" that have occurred during the whole period of the War. We quite anticipated that the process of demobilization would go on just as merrily as the proverbial "Marriage Bells". This brings us back to our note of warning to the boys.

During your period of Training you were taught to develop the habit of obedience to restraint, let us urge upon you to carry the spirit of self restraint into civil life, we must also carry the spirit of forbearance with us, and try to be tactful in dealing with the shortcomings of both individuals and communities; by self restraint we will overcome, unrest. Let us see to it that our Country is not plagued like unfortunate Europe with Strikes and rumours of Strikes, having subordinated self for the Conquest and overthrow of Autocracy, let us see to it that a triumphant Democracy is well ordered, and under proper restraint. By suffering and fortitude we have overcome evil, evil in National life is still with us. And having learned during our sojourn in the Army to live for our Country and not for self, let us use our knowledge wisely and well.

CORRESPONDENCE.

St. Johns, P.Q., Dec. 12, 1918

The Editor

"Knots and Lashings".

Dear Sir:—

In your able reply to Financial Times you do an injustice to the Daughters of The Empire and Red Cross Societies of St. Johns.

You say "The Daughters of the Empire, the Canadian Red Cross, and other kindred organizations, look after the upkeep of the Camps in England, but here in St. Johns, without any aid from these organizations", etc.

I think in justice to the ladies who have given so freely of their time and money, and have done so much for the Soldiers, and would have done more if they had been allowed by the Military authorities, and who have supplied the Hospitals here with all the com-

forts asked for, or which their kindness suggested, that you should ascertain from someone who has been longer in the City than you appear to have been, the truth of the matter, and not condemn by implication all the ladies of St. Johns as "Slackers".

Yours very truly,

W. C. Trotter,

Major R.L.

We have pleasure in printing the letter of Major Trotter and regret that through inadvertance, that any slight should have been put upon the ladies of St. Johns.

Editor

of "Knots and Lashings".

HADN'T SENSE ENOUGH.

The Huns:—"Peace! Peace! We must have peace!"

The Allies:—"Well, why didn't you keep it when you had it?"

A WIFE'S PRAYER

Somewhere a woman watches thrilled with pride,
Shrined in her heart, you share a place with none;
She toils, she waits, she prays, till side by side
You stand together, when the fight is done.
Keep for her dear sake, a stainless name,
Bring back to her a manhood, free from shame.

—From Mrs. Wm. Allbutt,
Amsterdam, New York.