

(Important Notice.—The following communication was received from an officer almost directly after the peace report was announced on the 7th instant, and after giving it our careful consideration we have decided that it would do a vast amount of good if the men in the E. T. D. were made thoroughly acquainted with certain information as imparted in this interesting article.)

GRAVE MILITARY SECRETS DISCLOSED.

Now that armistices one after the other are bidding fair to spoil this war—the best we have too—it matters little if some of the inner workings of the War Department are disclosed.

Hostilities will soon cease, and in that case the Kaiser's spies will not be able to handle the information profitably.

We are able to disclose for the first time—yes, sappers and gentlemen, for the very primus tempus—the bowels, or inner works of the great war machine.

Subtle are those in high command. List to this!

Did you ever realise why officers in order to qualify for their commissions are put through an examination? No, you never stopped to think, I'll bet, and so carefully has the secret been kept, that only those in the highest commands have been taken into confidence; excepting me.

I will get right to my disclosures. Listen!

If ever those in positions of high command fail to find a solution to a difficulty, they arrange to have a test examination of some poor unfortunates. Here is an instance to prove what I say is without the slightest essence of truth. I know what I am talking about, and it wont take you long to find out to the contrary.

Just after the war started and the British forces were driven to their entrenched positions in Flanders, the following question was put to a bunch of aspirants and perspirants.

"You are to assume that the enemy is in superior numbers. You have taken up an entrenched position which is more or less favourable. You are the Commander-in-chief of an army of ten divisions. What would you do to bring the war to a close and how soon could you do it?"

Just a simple question you will admit. Now just listen to the answer that was adopted as a basis of operations.

"In assuming the enemy to be

in superior numbers I fully appreciate the fact that he has more men than I have. This, together with the fact that it is threatening to rain at any moment, would preclude any immediate action on my part. I would therefore have me a dug-out built of sufficient capacity to hold my wife, my maid-servant, my man-servant, my ox, my ass, the sea and all that therein is, and there would I await a more opportune moment to begin hostilities. Meanwhile I would ask one of my junior officers to go over to England and get a few more men to make my strength up to say two hundred divisions. I would also have him fetch me another dozen guns or so, some excellent brand of whiskey and a packet or two of 'Players'. It seems too bad that we should have to live in trenches whilst waiting, and it would be my first step to get into touch with my enemy to arrange that we may both live in huts until the precise moment arrive for real fighting. If this were satisfactorily arranged I would ask that officer, while he is in England, to get hold of a few nails and some carpenters.

"Being the C-in-C of the army I would naturally avoid any scheme that would bring the war to an end before I had accumulated sufficient moneys in the bank to provide interest of a sufficiency to give me enough to live in luxury for my remaining years. Meanwhile more troops could be sent over and the A.S.C. could be putting in a little practice in supplying piping hot rolls and coffee for breakfast every morning (a weakness of mine which I would under the circumstances feel disposed to foster rather than fight).

"Having disposed of the points raised in the question I have only to say that when the stage is properly set and the huts removed to provide a clear field of fire, as required by the text books, I would order a general advance during my temporary absence, and tell my men to go in and knock Hell out of the Blighter of an enemy.

"This scheme would take about four-and-a-half years to complete provided the bank rate is not lowered, and a correspondingly shorter period if that rate increases. It also largely depends upon the continued support of the general public in subscribing to the various loans. The cessation of this support would involve my resignation and hence the failure of this excellent scheme.

(Signed)
Lieut."

Just why this scheme was not

adopted in its entirety is not quite clear to me. It may be, of course, some foolish acts of the enemy, or his stupid reluctance to await more favourable opportunity, interfered with the proper carrying out of this excellent plan. All I know is, that the war was carried out on the model laid out in Lieut. —'s answer to the simple question above.

Muck-a-muck.

SLASHINGS.

There is a blind barber in London, England. Why not appoint him as barber to the Kaiser when we get him on St. Helena?

We've heard a lot of the German dreams of a Mittel Europe. It looks like a Muddle Europe through German spectacles now.

It is said that Austria has always been a winner at the peace table. But Austria will not be at the table this time. She will be on a platter.

We're downright sorry for Len. He seems to have got in bad with the ladies. Never mind, Len, we can give Delilah another guess and if she hasn't any better luck next time, we should worry.

We quite agree with her sister. Yes, you are a pickle.

Now, Mr. Editor, will you be good? The ladies were a long time getting even with you but it had to come.

We heard the other day that an Engineer boy from St. John's was asked if he belonged to mounted unit; and being a driver he replied, "I belong to a married unit."

We can only conjecture that the impending event of his beloved O.C. caused the lapse of memory.

We understand that the Colonel and one of the drivers know the lady's name. What we want to know is, what is that driver's name. The rest is easy.

We understand that Phil is doing his best to make it hot for the officers this winter. What is most surprising though is, they seem to appreciate his efforts.

It is interesting to note that what was supposed to be the voice of a man heard in St. James' Church, now appears to have been only a: MOUSE.

Alas! Poor Arthur, although he possesses the physique of Hercules, he lacks the spirit of Don Quixote.

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