

MAKE A DATE--FEBRUARY 18th!

THE C.R.O. Bulletin

VOL. I, No. 17.]

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY.

[WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22, 1919

EDITORIAL.

Intrinsically the recent processions and meetings held as a protest against the slow methods of demobilisation were of value to the extent that they reminded the people at Whitehall of an existing grievance.

So far so good. The grievance apparently has been attended to, and more businesslike machinery set in motion. When the soldier knows that things are being done in the best possible way in his interest, he is the last to kick. Of course, he will grouse, but that is second nature with a soldier. If he doesn't grouse, he's not a soldier. At the same time things looked very grave at the times these protest processions were taking place, soldiers in British uniforms breaking camp and commandeering lorries, etc., seemed to savour of Bolshevism; at the same time, nothing was further from the minds of these men, who, having a very just grievance, took things into their own hands temporarily. The whole affair seemed at least very strange to this disciplined country. If it had gone on to any great extent there is no telling how it would end, for when once discipline breaks, among men who have been bound down by it for the last four years, the rough element is always to the fore.

This is the "grave" part of the affair, for you must admit that the "rough" element is always composed very largely of only half educated men, men who have not sufficient common or garden intellect to foresee what would be the result of the routing of discipline, men who would eagerly digest Bolshevik propaganda specially written to appeal to their weak and lawless minds. That is why, if these "demobilisation demonstrations" had gone on we should have been in peril of doing all the work it has taken us four years to do. All the blood, work and measure given by the Empire might easily have been given in vain, and Bolshevism would have followed rowdyism as sure as the night follows day. This because the nerves of these men are strung up to near breaking point after four years of war, and, now we are nearing the end they are like dogs at a leash, and—naturally—want to get away from it all. If the war had gone on they

would have stuck to it right through, but now it is over it is to be hoped that men of all classes and from all parts of the Empire will keep a level head on and keep the good old Army motto in sight—"Carry on," right through to the real end, and—as no earthly good can come by hampering the Government, who have got a vast undertaking on hand—let us "stay the course" and keep the civilization for which we have endured four years of untold misery, and hundreds of thousands of the best white men in the world have made the supreme sacrifice.

EDITOR.

CHEVRONS.

This week we take the liberty of raising the price of the Bulletin a penny, for this week only. This is to cover the extra cost of reproducing the famous Mons poster in facsimile, which we enclose as a supplement. We regret we could not give warning of this, but the poster only came to our hands after we had gone to press with the last issue. We feel sure that this supplement will be much appreciated as a Souvenir.

The translation appears on page 3.

In addition to their Majesties the King and Queen copies of our War Souvenir Number have now been accepted by H.M. Queen Alexandra H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, and H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught.

From a post-card received:—"Many thanks. It is excellent."—ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE.

We still have a few stray copies left for anyone who wishes to obtain this Souvenir Number.

Our congratulations to Pte. D. Purdy (not his brother), who has been presented with a baby girl, for all the world like its father, so we are told. Someone was rude enough to suggest that it would grow out of that. The rudeness in this Office is simply appalling.

S/Sgt. Thom, A. of R.2 B.2, is on leave, prior to his leaving for Canada. His genial face will be missed by all, especially Casualties, to which "clan" he belongs. Our good wishes go with him.

We seem to be behind other offices of the same nature as ours. They all seem to have had their "Armistice Dances," "Victory Parties," "Farewell Parties," and other sociable affairs, but apparently we are waiting until all the "old" staff have dwindled back to Canada and elsewhere.

Anyway, the coming C.R.O. Dance is a good opportunity to bring everyone together, that is, if it is taken advantage of AND supported, to the same extent it would be in most places.

Esprit de corps is not a thing on paper only, it is a force most essential to the smooth running of any office and the complete concord of the workers. That is ample and sufficient reason why we agitate for the full support and co-operation of no one in particular, but of everybody, from the highest to the lowest. It should not be left to the "same old few" who turn up at anything and everything.

A really excellent little weekly has now been published by the Khaki University of Canada, called "The Beaver," price one penny.

It edited by Captain A. G. Sleep, who is well known amongst most of the boys in this office. "The Beaver" is full of the most interesting news, notes, and articles of entire interest to Canadians, and an excellent cartoon appears every week, by one of Canada's gifted cartoonists.

We believe arrangements are being made to send a supply to this office every week, when you will have a chance of buying it. The publishers are justified in calling it "The paper with snap in it," being, as it is, full of "good dope."

The staff of R.1 "E" would like to congratulate S/Sgt. Pye on the interesting event recently occurring in his family. Knowing, as we do, what a lady's man he is, we are not surprised to hear the addition is a girl!

"MEN OF THE EMPIRE" L.O.L. 880 (Canadian) meet at the Memorial Hall, Farrington Street, Thursday, January 30th, at 7 p.m.

Cpl. J. F. BETTENS, W.M.
Sgt. F. A. CORRELL, R.2 A.5 Sec.

Next week we hope to hold our auction, of originals connected with the Christmas Number.

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THINGS WE WANT TO KNOW ?

What adjectives Cpl. McMartin of R.1 "E" let flow when he tried to don his coat the other afternoon, and if the fair sex were pleased with it?

If wishing a man in a warmer place will not suit the cave man?

Will the person who cut the button from Cpl. Bussell's overcoat on January 8th, kindly return the buttonhole?

Is the gentleman who is going to the Dance as "The Prehistoric Man" going to walk to Cannon Street Hotel?

And is he not likely to turn very jealous when he discovers "Thumbs Up" there also? (This will surely bring the ladies?)

If the Basement these days does not look as if we are "All Packed up and Nowhere to go"?

If Ian Hay's famous book, "The First Hundred Thousand" had anything to do with the British Peace Delegation just sent to Paris?

And is it true that you can hear a pin drop in Whitehall now that the whole personnel of the War Office, Admiralty, Ministry of Munitions, Ministry of Labour and the Water Board, appear to have gone to Paris?

It should be *some* Peace.

If arrangements could be made for R.1 G. (Discipline Branch) to install a padded cell or a cold water bath in their branch for the purpose of dealing with rumour instigators?

When the engagement of a certain young lady of R.1.E. will be publicly announced, especially as the Lhop is home on leave?

Who put the "Bull" in Bulletin? Lay Low and say nothing.

(D—good. Ed.)

Whether the McCoskery-Wood Duo have yet obtained the London Coliseum engagement they were after?

Does it take our Southendites as long to get home in the fog as it does for them to get here in the morning?

What Cpl. Roe (R.2 B.2) thought of his appointment as Fire Chief, and what happened to his Brigade?

If the "Soldier's Friend"—who put in an appearance the other day—did not look much thinner?

What a certain young lady in R.1 E. meant, when discussing the Fancy Dress Ball, she remarked to her friend: "Well, dear, you have a good skin"?

Surely it is not a lady who is going as Thumbs Up!

Who is the Cpl. in R.2 B.5 who pays for the lady's tea every afternoon, and can we expect to see them going out to lunch together soon? 'Swonderful what that tea does!

What has happened to all the Bulletin correspondents lately, and why we never hear from the *top floor* and the *bottom floor*, and *other floors*, to be mentioned in due course, if some "dope" is not forthcoming?

Where Pte. Campbell of R.1 E. gets his chickens from?

And are the said chickens getting the Old Age Pension?

If it is generally known that all particulars relating to the "Gratuity Scheme for Demobilising Canadian Soldiers" can be obtained from Cpl. Jackson, A.E., without any fee being charged? (We accept no responsibility for the information obtained from Cpl. Jackson.—Ed.)

Whether the military personnel have not got a new game—pricing civvie suits?

And is there any truth in the rumour to the effect that these are to be issued duty free with the tobacco?

Whether S.O.M.S. Nolan—judging from his joyous smile these days—doesn't rather like his new job as "Keeper of the Flappers' Roll"?

It certainly seems a case of "After the clouds roll away, cometh the sunshine"!

Whether it is any use hitting the Paymaster for a "sub." on the strength of the "After the War Gratuity?"

If it is true that one of our "conscientious" guys in R.2 got up at one o'clock in the morning, and having got dressed, made his way to the tube station, under the impression that it was 8 o'clock and time to come to work?

'Swonderful what this G.B. does. It's the sediment that does it!

If you want to Hire

A GOOD

FANCY DRESS

You should pay a visit to

Morris Angel & Sons,

CHARING CROSS ROAD

(Opposite Palace Theatre).

THEY HAVE THE GOODS!

THAT DANCE

Takes Place on February 18th.

The C.R.O. Fancy Dress Dance is to take place at the Cannon Street Hotel. Everybody in the Office appears to be going, and it certainly gives every promise of being a top-hole affair.

The tickets will be on sale shortly at each, but further information as to how to obtain tickets, etc., will be announced later.

The challenge put forward by R.2 A.2—to produce the best set of characters—has been accepted by R.2 A.4. Any other Sections interested? All comers taken. A special prize has been put up by the Dance Committee.

Hands off these Costumes!

As announced last week, we publish our first list of characters which have been decided on by various members of the C.R.O. If it had not been for this arrangement, we know of at least four members of the staff who intended to go as Charlie Chaplin!

NAMES WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED. The following is a list of the characters which have already been selected:—

Mutt and Jeff.
 Old Bill.
 Me and my Gal.
 A Bolchevik.
 The Laughing Cavalier.
 Charlie Chaplin.
 A Demobilisation Form (filled in).
 Thumbs Up.
 Napoleon.
 Peace.
 The Prehistoric Man.
 The Puritan Maid.
 A Searchlight.
 The Mystic Rat.
 Dilly and Dally.

Note: It is not necessary for pierrots, etc., to be included in this list.

Overheard at the Exemption Board.

"Age?"
 "Twenty-two."
 "Married?"
 "Yes."
 "Children?"
 "Yes, seven!"
 The Board Member gasped. "How have you been married?" he demanded.
 "About a month," admitted the slack with a flush, "I—I'm a step-father."
 "Well, I guess you've been punished enough," said the official, sympathetically. "You join up at once."

CANADIANS' GRATUITIES.

Length of Service to Count in a New Scheme.

The office of the Ministry of the Overseas Military Forces of Canada has issued an important statement regarding the demobilisation of the Canadian troops overseas, and a new scheme for substituting the old post discharge pay by a system of war service gratuities on a sliding scale according to the length of service.

Provision is also made for the return to their homes in Canada, at Government expense, of the dependants of officers and men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force sent to Canada for demobilisation. The schemes are retrospective. All ranks who have already been discharged in Canada prior to November 11th last, and have served at the front in an actual theatre of war, will be placed on the same basis as those still to be discharged, and all dependants who have paid for their passages home since November 11th will have their fares refunded. An assurance is given that the demobilisation scheme is being carried out with the utmost speed possible.

These war service gratuities, it is pointed out, recognise length of overseas service, which was not done under the former provision. For the purpose of the payments all "other ranks" except first-class warrant officers are placed on the same footing in regard to rate of pay. The pay to be received by "other ranks" is as follows:—

Service.	Days' Pay.	Rec'd where S.A. paid dependents.	Rec'd where no S.A. paid.
3 years or over ..	183	£120	£84
2 years and under 3 ..	153	£100	£70
1 year and under 2 ..	122	£80	£56
Under 1 year ..	92	£60	£42

Officers and first-class warrant officers will receive the same number of days' pay as is provided for "other ranks" at their respective rates of pay.—*Daily Express.*

"What's this?" asked the acquitted man.

"The bill for my services," said the lawyer.

"Go on! You proved that I was insane, didn't you?"

"Yes."

"Well, you cannot do business with an insane man—you ought to know that."

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The demand for divorces seem to be greater than for a long time past.

Evidently the "separate peace" idea is being adopted generally.

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Having read in the papers something about Onion smut, Mrs. Smith plaintively declares that the spread of indecency seems to have no limit.



O.C. No. NINES.

"Now which shall it be, SOLID or LIQUID?"

What did you do in the Great War, Daddy?

"Yes, old son; it was way back at the beginning of 1919, I think, just after the Armistice had been signed. Of course, you wouldn't remember the Great War, but I remember distinctly the old Record Office where I used to hang out; I believe it was originally built for a cold storage, and a d— good one it would make, too! Gee, but it was a cold place! But I was going to say, just after the Armistice had been signed, there was a great change at this particular office. While the war was on, we couldn't do this, and we had to do that, till we began to say nasty things about everybody and nobody in particular. Anyway, I was going to say that one day, they told us we could smoke all day. Yes, all day. Yes, my boy, and do you know, the boys found that they didn't smoke any more than they did before! The only difference it made was that they had time to finish a pipe of tobacco, with the result that they didn't need another smoke for quite a long time, because they'd had a proper one. Besides, instead of the air being clouded with smoke every hour, there was just enough smoke hanging about all day to keep away the 'flu. Yes, old son, this made the boys feel real happy, and we all worked much harder, too, and those who were responsible for the bringing about of this reform were to be congratulated on their enterprise. Pass me my old pipe, son."

TRANSLATION OF THE FAMOUS MONS POSTER.

Of which a facsimile is given with this number as a supplement.

To the Population of Mons.

After 51 months of suffering, which was caused through being occupied by the German Army, the Town of Mons is at last liberated by the victorious British Army, who at the hour of the Armistice, concluded the series of her victories on the same spot as the 23rd of August, 1914, when she first came in contact with the enemy.

The 3rd Canadian Division, at the cost of great sacrifices, penetrated into the town at 3 o'clock this morning, then revenging, by a great success, the retreat of 1914. **GLORY AND REMEMBRANCE TO HER!**

The Armistice is signed, the German Army has capitulated, the brutal force has been beaten; justice and right have won. Belgium comes out greater and fortified by the terrible experience she has gone through.

The population has supported with confidence and courage the sufferings of the occupation. We are convinced that in the joy of triumph she will keep the dignity and measure which she has always kept.

We look forward to the good faith of you all, that order shall be kept. We invite also the population to start working as soon as possible. The ruins inflicted by the war are great, and the co-operation of the best willingness and energy is needed to rapidly heal the wounds which have been caused.

In this hour of thanksgiving, our gratitude goes to the Allied Armies, and among them all, from the bottom of our hearts; to our valiant Belgian Army and the King, her heroic chief.

Long live the King!

Long live Belgium!

(Sgd.) GASTON TALAUPÉ.

The Communal Secretary.

Mons, 11th November, 1918.

Are YOU going to the DANCE?

Take your old Aunt dressed up as a Sausage!

Or your Mother-in-Law as the Kaiser!
and then lose her on the way!

Correspondence.

The "Bulletin" does not necessarily associate itself with the views expressed by our correspondents.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—It is not easy to gather from the effusion on the C.R.O. Concert Troupe written by a lady member just in what vein it was penned.

There is a decidedly humorous touch in the suggestion that the absence of any one man from the R.O. could hold up a representative concert party, but the tragic side is not lacking either.

If the case is examined, there is reason to believe that the whole question of the concert party has been treated in a far too hole and corner fashion this winter.

The first meeting on the matter was well attended, showing plenty of enthusiasm and talent, but the majority of prospective members were frozen out. In spite of the latter fact, the office undeniably rallied round the self-constructed concert party at their first concert, their first concerted and hearty financial support.

It is fair to suppose that some considerable amount of the "expenses" covered costumes and stock that should be available for any other party that might be hereafter formed.

The 1917 Troupe practised and carried out a long list of engagements under far more adverse circumstances than obtain now, and after paying all expenses and assisting the Baseball Team, handed £15 to philanthropic objects. Verb Sap.

WHITWELL H. RANSON.

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(To the Editor.)

Am pleased to see in your last week's edition of the "Bulletin" that a member of the C.R.O. Concert Troupe has at last volunteered some information regarding that seemingly mythical body.

Whether the particulars given are satisfactory to the office in general, of course, is another thing.

It seems a great pity that a concern of this description should be allowed to dissolve into thin air owing to the absence of one member, especially in view of the varied talent that was brought to light at the first two meetings of the proposed party, and the following two rehearsals.

Before the third rehearsal (at which, by the way, the party to represent the office was to have been selected), dissension appeared in the camp, which ultimately resulted in a favoured few attending private rehearsals, from which blossomed forth the 1918 Concert Troupe, who, judging from subsequent events, were "six indispensable."

Whilst on the subject, I should like to pay a tribute to the "businesslike" manner in which the Secretary conducted his party, for instance, the prompt way in which the splendid balance sheet showing what funds were available and how they were disposed of, was published.

The explicit interpretation of that elusive word "expenses," vaguely referred to

by "A Lady Member" last week, is also worthy of comment.

Again, at the first general meeting of the party, early in the season, a selection committee of three was appointed. A lady member of this committee chanced to be included in the "favoured few," the remaining two committeemen for unexplained reasons were not, and for similar reasons were not consulted in any way by the secretary, who, I might mention, was the instigator of the select circle, regarding the subsequent movements of the self-constituted "C.R.O. Concert Troupe."

Unfortunately, I was elected a member of the aforesaid committee, and not having tendered my resignation, nor having been asked to do so by the Secretary, I am placed in quandary, and am now wondering what my official capacity in connection with the Troupe can be.

H. W. SEALY, S.Q.M.S.

(To the Editor.)

While I feel in absolute sympathy with the views expressed in your last issue of the "Bulletin," by "A Lady Member," concerning the motives of the "Pierrot Troupe," I feel, that for the satisfaction of all concerned, a little more light should be thrown on the doings of the Troupe.

In her letter, the lady informs us, that after "expenses" were covered, "about" £5 was given to the Canadian Red Cross. This is extremely vague, and leaves me wondering what "expenses" involved such a sum of money. I am quite aware that the word "expenses" covers a multitude of items, nevertheless, I feel sure no one will be satisfied until a detailed account is published, through, I suggest, the medium of the "Bulletin."

This would only be fair, since, after the magnificent support given by the staff for the "Benefit Concert," it is only just that they know how the money has been disposed of.

For the information of your readers, and as a member of last year's Concert Party, I should like to give a few details, which may be of interest to the members of the staff, and I think that these, pitted against those of this year's Pierrot Troupe, calls for an explanation from the latter.

First hand information is, unfortunately, unobtainable, since no Balance Sheet has been issued, but sums, as enumerated below, have been allotted, or extracted, from time to time, from the funds of the "Concert Party."

Canadian Red Cross	... £15 0 0
Athletic Expenses (approximately)	... 4 0 0
Balance handed to 1918 Troupe	... 8 0 0
Total	... £27 0 0

In addition, expenses, such as Travelling and the expenses for the making of costumes, a number of which were handed over to the Pierrot Troupe. Travelling expenses covered a period of six months.

Incidentally, the personnel of the Concert Party numbered 15; that of the Pierrot Troupe, 6, excluding myself.

Probably the lady will inform me who the important personage is, whose absence prevents the Troupe from "carrying on"

with the good work. Could the lady not have been more candid, and informed your readers that lack of support from those in authority, necessitated the breaking up of the Troupe?

I take this opportunity of thanking Mr. G. F. Low for his efforts on behalf of the Pierrot Troupe. No vote of thanks, to my knowledge, has been accorded him.

GEORGE CRANSTON, R.A.

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(I much appreciate Cpl. Cranston's remarks above, concerning myself, but I should like to make it clear that although I was appointed Stage Manager at the first "general meeting" of the Pierrot Troupe, I resigned—verbally—next morning. I have, therefore, had nothing whatever to do with the Pierrot Troupe since its formation.—G. F. Low, Ed.)

RE-MOBILIZING FOR PEACE.

ARTICLE No. II.

As the majority of the military staff of this office are unfit men, it would perhaps be interesting to them to know something of the department in Canada known as the Re-establishment Department.

This department deals solely with disabled men. They are responsible for Canada's industrial re-education.

Their system involves the co-operation of manufactures and survey of industrial plants made to find wider opportunities to train disabled men.

A soldier is interviewed to ascertain whether his injuries or condition of health are such as to prevent him returning to his previous job.

He is next seen by a medical officer, who confirms the interviewer's report from a strictly physical standpoint. The veteran is then brought before what is known as the Disabled Soldiers' Training Board, where a suitable new occupation is recommended for which he should be trained. This board acts as adviser to the soldier.

The business man is asked to advise as to the permanency of employment at decent wages in the occupation under discussion.

The men are trained for their new jobs under actual shop conditions with the firm that will eventually employ them.

Up the present, with few exceptions, men who have taken the opportunity to train under this department have made good.

There's an office stool in Canada,
Where a fellow used to sit
(But the chap that used to sit there is overseas).

They said the job would be open till the fellow had done his bit,
But is that job, still waiting, for him, for you, for me?

S/M. J. BRYANT, W.O.

Come what may, I've had my day,
Have lived, have loved—what after,
I'll face my fate, come soon come late,
And meet the gods with laughter.

A LA POPULATION DE MONS



Après 51 mois de souffrances causées par l'occupation inique, impitoyable et insolente de l'armée allemande, la Ville de Mons est enfin délivrée par l'héroïsme de l'armée britannique, qui, à l'heure de l'armistice, termine la série de ses victoires dans les lieux mêmes où, le 23 août 1914, elle entra en contact avec l'ennemi.

La 3^e division canadienne, au prix de lourds sacrifices, a pénétré dans la ville à 3 heures du matin, vengeant ainsi, par un éclatant succès, la retraite de 1914. **GLOIRE ET RECONNAISSANCE A ELLE !**

L'armistice est signé. L'armée allemande a capitulé; la force brutale est anéantie; la justice et le droit triomphent. La Belgique sort grandie et fortifiée de la terrible épreuve qu'elle a traversée.

La population a supporté avec confiance et courage les souffrances de l'occupation. Nous sommes convaincus que dans la joie du triomphe, elle observera la dignité et la mesure qu'elle a toujours conservées.

Nous comptons sur la bonne volonté de tous pour que l'ordre soit observé. Nous invitons aussi la population à se remettre, le plus tôt possible, au travail. Les ruines infligées par la guerre sont grandes, et la coopération de toutes les bonnes volontés, de toutes les énergies est nécessaire pour guérir rapidement les plaies qu'elle a causées.

En cette heure solennelle, notre gratitude infinie va aux Armées Alliées et, parmi elles, du fond du cœur, à notre vaillante Armée Belge et au Roi, son héroïque chef.

Vive le Roi ! Vive la Patrie Belge !

Le Secrétaire communal,

Gaston TALAUPE

Mons, le 11 Novembre 1918.



Le Collège des Bourgmestre et Echevins.

Jean LESCARTS
Fulgence MASSON
Léon SAVE
Victor MAISTRIAU
Henri ROLLAND