

The NEW ARMY

By RUDYARD KIPLING

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THIS was a cantonment one had never seen before, and the gray-haired military policeman could give no help.

"My experience," he spoke detachably, "is that you'll find everything everywhere. Is it any particular corps you're looking for?"

"Not in the least," I said.

"Then you're all right. You can't miss getting something." He pointed generally to the North Camp. "It's like floods in a town, isn't it?"

He had hit just the word. All known marks in the place were submerged by troops. Parade grounds to their utmost limits were crowded with them; rises and skylines were furrowed with them; and the whole length of the roads heaved and rippled like bicycle chains with blocks of men on the move.

The voice of a sergeant in the torment reserved for sergeants at roll-call boomed across a bunker. He was calling-over recruits to a specialist corps.

"But I've called you once," he snapped at a man in leggings.

"But I'm Clarke Two," was the virtuous reply.

"Oh, you are, are you?" He pencilled the correction with a scornful mouth, out of one corner of which he added, "Sloppy, Clarke. You're all Clarks or Watsons today. You don't know your own names. You don't know what corps you're in. (This was bitterly unjust, for they were squinting up at a biplane.) You don't know anything."

"Mm!" said the military policeman. "The more a man has in his head, the harder it is for him to manage his carcass—at first. I'm glad I never was a sergeant. Listen to the instructors! Like rocks, isn't it?"

There was half a mile of sergeants' instructors, varied by company officers, all at work on the ready material under their hands. They grunted, barked, yapped, expostulated and, in rare cases, purred as the lines broke and formed and wheeled over the vast meadow.

When companies numbered off one could hear the tone and accent of every walk in life, and maybe half the counties of England, from the deep-throated "Woon" of the north to the sharp, half-whistled Devonshire "Tu." And as the instructors labored, so did the men.

—With a passion to learn as passionately as they were taught.

A SOLDIER'S SORE TOE

PRESENTLY in the drift of the foot traffic down the road there came another gray-haired man, one foot in a gait slipper; which showed he was an old soldier cherishing a sore toe. He drew alongside and considered these zealous myriads.

"Good!" said I deferentially.

"Yes," he said, "very good"—then half to himself—"quite different though." A pivot man close to me had shifted a little instead of marking-time on the wheel. His face clouded, his lips moved. Obviously he was cursing his own clumsiness.

"That's what I meant," said the veteran. "Innocent! Innocent! Mark you, they ain't doin' it to be done with it and get off. They're doing it because—because they want to do it."

"Wake up! Wake up here, Issherwood!" This was a young subaltern's reminder flung at a camp which straightened itself. That one human name coming out of all that maze of impersonal maneuvering stuck in the memory.

"An' it wasn't 'ardly even necessary to caution Mister Issherwood," my companion commented. "Probly he's bitterly ashamed of 'imself."

I asked a leading question because the old soldier told me that when his toe was sound he, too, was a military policeman.

"Crime? Crime!" said he. "They don't know what crime is—that lot don't—none of 'em!" He mourned over them like a benevolent old Satan looking into 'Eby Eden, and his last word was "Innocent!"

The car worked her way through miles of men—men route-marching, or going to dig or build bridges, or wrestle with stores and transport—four or five miles of men, and every man with eager eyes.

NO MUSIC

THERE was no music—not even drums and fife. I heard nothing but a distant skirl of the pipes.

Trust a Scot to get his national weapon as long as there is a chief in the north! Admitting that war is a serious business, specially to the man who is being fought for, and that it may be right to carry a long face and contribute to relief funds which should be laid on the national debt, it surely could do no harm to cheer the men with a few bands. Half the money spent in treating, for example.

There was a moor among woods with a pond in a hollow, the center of a world of tents whose population was a few dozen, and heard it from far off.

"Yo' mun trail 't' in' t' rifle at t' same time. Try again," said an instructor.

An isolated company tried again with seriousness, and yet again. They were used to the pick—won their living by it, in fact—and so, favored it more than the rifle, but miners don't carry picks at the trail by instinct, though they can twiddle a rifle as one twiddles a walking stick.

They were clad in a blue garb that disguised all contours; yet their shoulders, backs and loins could not

be altogether disguised, and these were beautiful to see.

Another company, at physical drill, in shirt and trousers, showed what superb material had offered itself to be worked upon, and how much poise and directed strength had been added to that material in the past three months.

THE MAN AND THE CLOTHES

WHEN the new army gets all its new uniform, it will gaze at itself like a new Narcissus. But the present kit is indescribable. That is why, English, fashion, it has been made honorable by its wearers; our world in the years to come will look back with reverence as well as affection on those blue slops and that blasting cap.

One far-seeing commandant, who had special facilities, has possessed himself of brass buttons, thousands of 'em, which he has added to his men's outfit for the moral effect of (a) having something to clean and (b) of keeping it so. It has paid.

The smartest regiment in the service could not do itself justice in such garments, but I managed to get a view of a battalion, coming from a walk, at a distance which more or less subdued the—uniform, and they moved with the elastic swing and little, quick ripple that means so much.

A miner is not supposed to be as good a marcher as a townsman, but when he gets set to time and pace and learns the economy of effort, his developed back and shoulder muscles take him along very handsomely. Another battalion fell in for parade while I watched again at a distance. They came to hand quietly and collectedly enough, and with only that amount of pressing which is due to a fear of being late. A platoon—

or whatever they call it—was giving the whole of its attention to its signalling instructor, with the aim of men getting the last flicker of the last cinema-film for their money. Crime in the military sense they do not know any more than their fellow-innocents up the road.

NO SHAMS HERE

IT IS hopeless to pretend to be other than what one is because one's soul in this life is as exposed as one's body. It is futile to tell civilian lies—there are no civilians to listen—and they have not yet learned to tell service ones without being detected.

It is useless to sulk at any external condition of affairs, because the rest of the world with which a man is concerned is facing those identical conditions. There is neither poetry nor riches, nor any possibility of pride, except in so far as one may do one's task a little better than one's mate.

In the point of food they are extremely well looked after, quality and quantity, wet canteen and dry. Drafts come in all round the clock, and they have to be fed; late guards and sentries want something hot at odd times, and the big marque-canteen is the world's gathering place where food, life's first interest to a man in hard work, is thoroughly discussed. They can get outside of a vast 'o' vittles. Thus, a contractor who delivers ten thousand rations, a day stands, by deputy at least, in the presence of just the number of rather fit, long-deep men. They are what is called "independent"—a civilian weakness which they will learn to blush over in a few months, and to discourage among later recruits; but they are also very quick to pick up dodges and tricks that make a man more comfortable in camp life, and their domestic routine runs on wheels.

A WORLD WITHOUT WOMAN

IT MUST have been hard at first for civilians to see the necessity for that continuous apparently pernickety house-making and "following-up" which is vital to the comfort of large bodies of men in confined quarters.

In civil life men leave these things to their women folk, but where women are not, officers, respecting class, and such like, develop a she-side to their head, and evidently make non-coms and men develop it, too. A good soldier is always a bit of an old maid. But as I heard a private say to a sergeant, in the matter of some kit chucked into a corner: "Yo' canna' keep owt redd up ony proper road on a sandhill." To whom his superior officer: "Ah know yo' canna, but yo' mun try, Billy."

And Heaven knows they are trying hard enough—men, non-coms and officers—with all the masked and undevoted effort of our people when we are really creating out of chaos, meeting emergencies as they arise; handicapped in every direction, and overcoming every handicap by simple good will, humor, self sacrifice, common sense and such trumpery virtues.

I watched their faces in the camp; and at lunch looked down a line of some 20 men in the mess tent, wondering how many would survive to see the full splendor of the year to come.

But they were not interested in the future beyond their next immediate job. They ate quickly and went out to it, and by the time I drove away again I was overtaking their battalions on the road. Not unrelated units lugged together for foot-slogging, but real battalions, of a spirit in themselves which defied even the blue slops—wave after wave of proper men with undistracted eyes who never talked a word about any war. But not a note of music—and they North Countrymen!

EVERY PASSENGER ON OREGON EXPRESS HAS TO GET VACCINATED

(Continued From Page One.)

said that she would rather be quarantined than have her baby vaccinated. Another woman with a little boy refused absolutely to have him touched. She held out until the last and would listen to no argument. Dr. Gilliam and his assistants took her away in an automobile but she was allowed to go untouched. It was learned. It was decided that as she had boarded the train at Astoria and she had been subjected to no exposure.

The passengers came from all parts of the United States. They left Portland at 1:10 o'clock Friday morning. When the train reached Ashland at noon of that day many of the passengers went into the station for lunch. When they started to return to their cars they found the train delayed by the fumigation of one of the coaches. It was rumored that the conductor had been taken ill, but the exact nature of his illness and the possible consequences to the passengers was not made known to them. They thought no more about it until they ran into Oakland.

REOPENING OF STOCK EXCHANGE TO MARK REVIVAL OF BUSINESS

(Continued From Page One.)

capital necessary to fortify the country, to establish industries, to develop mines, to build factories, all giving employment to millions of citizens. And during these months the security markets have been closed the people have learned how catastrophic it is when a market becomes scarce from end to end of the country.

Financial District Astor

By 9:30 this morning the whole financial district had taken on an air of bustle. "It's like old times," was the favorite comment. Inside the stock exchange building every official, clerk and messenger was flitting to and fro. On the floor—a great square

space studded with huge "posts," each the center for dealing in specific stocks—the brokers were beginning to gather. There was much handshaking, marking the renewal of interrupted association. As 10 o'clock drew near the floor became more and more crowded and the visitors' gallery filled up. Secretary George Ely stepped up on the rostrum at 10 minutes to 10. There was suppressed excitement, brokers were fingering pencils and pads nervously, messenger boys were all at attention, uniformed recorders of quotations were beginning to gather. There was much handshaking, marking the renewal of interrupted association. As 10 o'clock drew near the floor became more and more crowded and the visitors' gallery filled up. Secretary George Ely stepped up on the rostrum at 10 minutes to 10. There was suppressed excitement, brokers were fingering pencils and pads nervously, messenger boys were all at attention, uniformed recorders of quotations were beginning to gather. 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