



# AN T-OGLÁC

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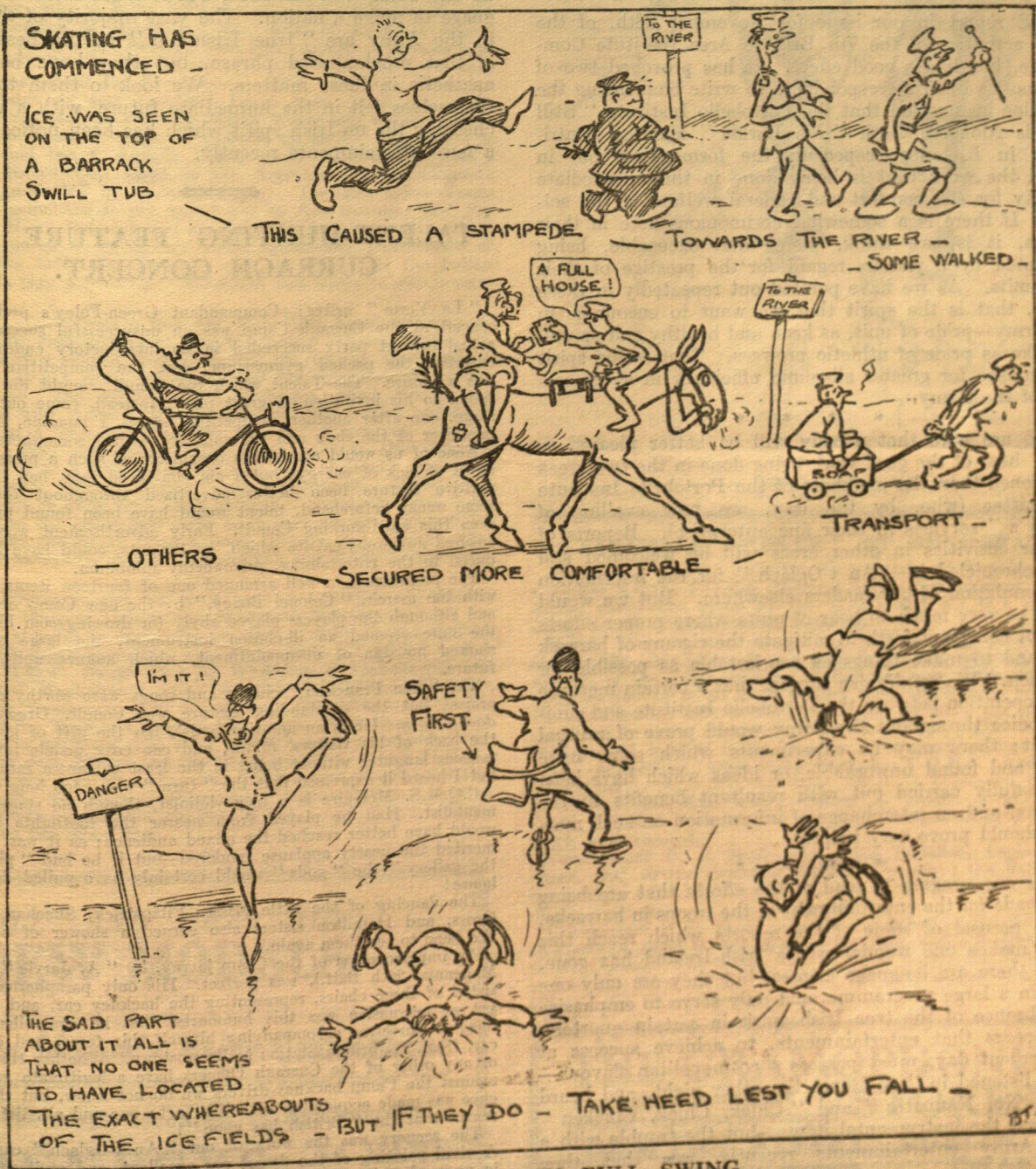


# An τ-Οζιάς

Vol. III. No. 25 (New Series).

DECEMBER 12, 1925.

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WINTER SPORTS IN FULL SWING.



# An t-Oglach

DECEMBER 12, 1925.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

THE report in our issue for November 28th, of the activities of the 7th Brigade Area Institute Committee, has had a good effect. It has provoked two of our most valued correspondents to write challenging the headline insinuation that the Portobello Institute "Still Stands Alone." Both "Me Larkie" and our contributor in Kilkenny—especially the former—set out in detail the work that is being done in their immediate vicinity for the comfort and general welfare of the soldier. If there is a somewhat acrimonious note in their letters, it is, we think, more than excusable, being prompted by a jealous regard for the prestige of their own units. As we have pointed out repeatedly in these pages, that is the spirit that we want to encourage in the Army—pride of unit, as keen and healthy and sportsmanlike as pride of athletic prowess. That is the spirit that makes for greater all-round efficiency in every section of the Army.

WE are sure that nobody will be better pleased to hear of the good work being done in the two areas mentioned than the members of the Portobello Institute Committee (who, by the way, are now availing of "Kay's" services in their fine enterprise). Reports of similar activities in other areas will be welcomed and duly chronicled in "An t-Oglach" for the information and emulation of our readers elsewhere. But we would also like very much to hear of units where proper efforts are **not** being put forth to mitigate the rigours of barrack life, and to make things as comfortable as possible for the men. We would also suggest that a certain measure of co-operation between the Portobello Institute and similar bodies throughout the Army would prove of mutual benefit: there may be experiments which some have made and found unworkable, or ideas which have been successfully carried out with resultant benefits to the soldiers, and an interchange of information on such matters should prove very helpful.

IT is encouraging to read of the efforts that are being made for the entertainment of the troops in barracks, but a perusal of some of the reports which reach this office makes one wonder where Irish-Ireland has gone. True, there are language classes, but they are only one item in a large programme, and only serve to emphasise the absence of the true Irish spirit in certain quarters. It appears that entertainments, to achieve success at the present day, must possess a cosmopolitan flavour—we "listened in" to Rome the other night, and heard "No, No, Nannette" and "Chick, Chick, Chicken" amongst the instrumental items—but the trouble with a few Army entertainments recently was that they

savoured of every country **except** Ireland. These Pierrots, Christy Minstrels and Jazz Bands, are doubtless, well enough in their way—for those who like that sort of thing it is just the sort of thing they'll like—but they are most distinctly not Irish, and it does not redound to our credit that they occupy such prominence. And dances are being held under military auspices at which Irish dances are apparently anathema. By all means learn the new Tango if you want to do so, and practise the Fox Trot, but not to the exclusion of our native dances. It is all to the good to hear of these language classes springing up and being well attended, but it takes more than language to make a nation. The vast majority of the men in the Army are "true Irishmen" in the best sense of that much-abused phrase, but they have been too apathetic in these matters. We look to them to make themselves felt in the immediate future, with a view of checking the un-Irish spirit which has been noticeable in a few entertainments recently.

## TALENT-HUNTING FEATURE AT CURRAGH CONCERT.

"La Verte" writes:—Commandant Green-Foley's preliminary concert at the Curragh Camp was an unsuccessful success. His actual concert party succeeded in its introductory endeavour to entertain the packed gymnasium; but the competitive feature was a failure. The Talent which the Comdt. sought did not respond to his invitation—a great pity. Instead, came out on the stage, one after another, competitors whom, I imagine, both the organiser of the show and the audience wished somewhere else.

None of us would accuse the organisers of such a praiseworthy effort of lack of energy; but I am convinced that, had the competitive feature been better advertised throughout the camp some weeks beforehand, talent would have been found to satisfy even this hard-working Comdt. Early advertisement would have ensured numerous entries which, on try-outs, could have been reduced to the entertaining, prizeworthy minimum.

The programme, a well arranged one of fourteen items, opened with the march, "Colonel Bogey," by the new Camp orchestra; and although the players played shyly (or drawingroom like), and the flute seemed an ill-chosen instrument, the large audience showed no sign of disappointment, which augurs well for the future.

The "San Francisco" chorus and songs were worthy of much praise; but the outstanding feature was Comdt. Green-Foley's *double turn*. He is an amusing artist, has the gift of getting to the back of his visitors' minds, and can coax people into spontaneous laughter without being in the least vulgar—a rare factor; but I heard it expressed that the "turn" was "too long drawn."

C.Q.M.S. McGuire is a nice violinist, though no stage instrumentalist. Had he played from nearer the footlights his solo would have better reached the mixed audience; as it was, he well merited the hearty applause tendered—but if he had "played to the gallery" the "gods" would certainly have pulled down the house!

The dancing of the little Misses Fitzpatrick, Sheehan, Devin, Gross, and Hamilton sisters also earned a shower of applause. We hope to see them again.

An impersonation of the Camp jarvey, by "A. Jarvie" (Lieut. Magennis, 26th Batt.), was perfect. His only paraphernalia consisted of three chairs, representing the hackney car, and a whip; yet so persuasive was this humourist that he compelled us to imagine ourselves accompanying himself, his fares, and crawling car, from Newbridge Station to Brownstown. Whether this Lieut. or any other of the Curragh Officers have a legitimate grievance against the Camp hackney-drivers we do not know, but the audience was made acquainted with this fact: one and all, the jarveys regret that the "British has gone"!

The scenery was the work of our "An t-Oglach" cartoonist. A vivid painting of the desert was excellent, and of itself speaks in no small voice of the ability of our Army Journalists.



Oglach  
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## GRAMOPHONE DANCE MUSIC.

Irish dances have not been recorded to any extent by gramophone companies other than the Beltona, but, as mentioned in a previous issue, that firm has quite a number of them to its credit—all amazingly good value for the modest half-crown, and played by various instruments from the pipes to the accordion. Space prevents detailed enumeration here, but the catalogue to be obtained free at the Gramophone Stores, Johnson's Court, Dublin, or from any accredited Beltona dealer, will well repay study.

The best record that Liam Walsh has yet made is included in the H.M.V. December list; a ten-inch disc containing on one side two reels, "The Mountain Lark" and "Dan McCarthy's Fancy" and on the reverse is "The Cliffs of Moher" and "Saddle the Pony."

I cannot claim to be an authority on modern dance music, so I have persuaded an expert to "vet." some of the latest records for me. First of all, he says (and this supports a previous view of my own) that the best Tango records he has heard so far have been those issued by Parlophone. That company's December list contains six very beautiful Tango tunes. Four are on 12-inch records (4s. 6d. each) by Marek Weber and his orchestra—"Pajarito" and "Jueves," "Melodie du Reve" and "Le Lys Noir"—and two ("A quella Noche" and "Tierra Mia") on a 10-inch record (3s.) made in the Argentine by the Orquesta Tipica, conducted by Roberto Firpo. The only other Tango which I submitted to my expert was an Aco recording of "Por Ti," by Harry Bidgood, and his Tango Orchestra (2s. 6d.), which he pronounced to be a very virile, satisfactory performance of one of the better-class tangos. On the other side the Indian Melodists play a fox-trot—"Moonlight and Roses"—with a vocal refrain.

It was comforting to find the Man Who Knew cordially endorsing my high opinion of Strauss's famous "Kaiser Waltz," as recorded on a 12-inch Parlophone disc (4s. 6d.) by Marek Weber and Co. It is a really splendid record (we agreed) of a very fine composition. The Edith Lorand Orchestra, which ties in my affections with Weber's, also provides two very bright, melodious waltzes on a 12-inch Parlophone record—"Where are you Tonight?" and "Sometime." The latter waltz is also recorded for H.M.V. on a 10-inch disc (3s.) by Jack Shelkret's Orchestra, with another waltz—"Funny"—on the reverse. There is a resemblance in more than name between "Sometime" and "Always," but the last-named waltz is an easy winner as played for H.M.V. by the Savoy Havana Band (10-inch, 3s.) On the other side the Savoyards give us "Moonlight and Roses" exquisitely played.

Paul Whiteman and his Band have a reputation in America about six times as high as the Woolworth Building, and my expert was at pains to explain to me what a really great man Paul was in his saner moments. He grew volubly enthusiastic over a 10-inch H.M.V. record (3s.) of Whiteman & Co. playing two fox-trots—"Manhattan" and "Rhythm Rag"—and urged me to warmly recommend it to my readers. All right; you have his word for it. There's a debased hint of old Omar about "A cup of Coffee, a Sandwich, and You," but it is really a fox-trot, finely played by Jack Hylton and his Orchestra, on a 10-inch H.M.V., with "Molly" on the other side. The expert recommends this record also. The same combination's "Sunny Havana" is even more warmly commended (10-inch H.M.V., with "Sally's Come Back" on the other side).



IT :

## "FAREWELL SMOKER" AT BUNDORAN.

On Tuesday evening, 24th November, a farewell "smoker" to a popular N.C.O.—C.Q.M.S. Donegan, of the 2nd Infantry Batt., Finner Camp—was given by the W.O.'s and N.C.O.'s of the Camp, in the Atlantic Hotel, Bundoran.

Q.M.S. Donegan, who was leaving to take up a position in civilian life, after years of good work in the 2nd Infantry Batt., was one of the oldest members of the Sergeants' Mess, and his comrades showed in no small manner their appreciation of him. He was a leading light in the sport of the Battalion, and worked very hard to make all entertainments a success. The Brigade Staff present testified to his qualities in all-round matters.

The proceedings were inaugurated by C.Q.M.S. Anderson (Busty) taking his seat at the piano. Sergt. G. O'Donnell, Sergt. J. Rooney, B.Q.M.S. Kane, Captain J. Smart, Sergt.-Major Cahill, C.Q.M.S. Anderson and C.Q.M.S. Donegan all gave songs, which were encored.

Commandant P. P. Hyde, O.C., 2nd Battalion, Captain J. Smart, O.C. of the departing N.C.O.'s Company; the Battalion Sergt.-Major, B.S.M. Doherty and B.Q.M.S. Kane made appropriate speeches.

Commandant P. P. Hyde presented, on behalf of the N.C.O.'s at Finner, a wallet of money, a walking stick, and a fountain pen to Mr. Donegan, who spoke of his sorrow at leaving the Battalion, and wished those present to convey his good wishes to all the Officers, N.C.O.'s and men.

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# BRIGHTENING LIFE IN BARRACKS.

## Supremacy of Portobello Institute Challenged by Friendly Rivals. SPLENDID WORK IN VARIOUS CENTRES.

To-day we publish a further report, which has been supplied to us, of the excellent activities of the No. 7 Brigade Area Institute Committee, Portobello Barracks, Dublin. At the same time we are glad to give publicity to communications from G.H.Q., and the 5th Brigade Area H.Q., Kilkenny, disputing the suggestion that the Institute in question "stands alone." According to our correspondents, splendid work is being done in those centres also, and the Committees concerned are deserving of the heartiest congratulations. "An t-Oglach" will be very pleased to find room for particulars of similar activities in other centres of the Army.

### "ME LARKIE" IS ANNOYED.

#### He takes up the Cudgels for G.H.Q., and "lambastes" Portobello.

To the Editor of "An t-Oglach."

A Chara,—A *propos* of your article in the last issue of "An t-Oglach," with reference to the activities of the Portobello Institute, entitled "Still Stands Alone," I have to state that, in my opinion, whilst the article will, no doubt, be read with much concern by all who are eagerly interested in the welfare of troops in barracks. Yet I am of opinion that the heading is decidedly misleading.

In justice to numerous other voluntary Committees who are actuated by the same high ideals and principles, and who are working as unselfishly, and as energetically and perchance achieving as full a measure of success as the Portobello Institute, the heading would require some explanation.

Whilst congratulating the Portobello Institute on their achievements, their originality, energy and success (not overlooking their Publicity Department), and far from trying to depreciate their stock, yet I would like to pay a justly-merited tribute to another organisation who, by their modesty, would make one believe that their motto is "*Faire Sans dire*" (To act without ostentation), i.e., the No. 5 Group, G.H.Q. A brief résumé of but a few of the activities of this Group would perchance be a trifle opportune.

**Field Sports.**—The No. 5 Group, since its inception, has proved second to none as regards outdoor recreations and pastimes. The achievements of G.H.Q. teams on the field need no elaboration. As authentic records show All-Army Championships are collected *ad lib.* So, as regards the catering for outdoor recreations—that's that!

**Whist.**—McKee Barracks, controlled by the No. 5 Group, were the first this season to start whist drives. They started early in the Autumn, and are still going strong. They hold whist drives three nights a week, which, it must be admitted, is a record for Barrack indoor activities.

**Billiards.**—We have already finished two billiard handicaps, and are starting a third. Our team has already been on tour looking for, and has found, "scalps" outside our own area. There is no evidence of inactivity in this Section.

**Irish Class.**—Our Irish class, under first-class tutors, is making rapid headway, and is gaining fresh adherents nightly.

**Concerts, etc.**—In addition to the usual concerts, etc., the No. 5 Group has gone one better—they are now busily rehearsing for their Christmas pantomime, "Sinbad, the Sailor." They have erected an elaborate stage, painted their own scenery, written their own pantomime, composed their own music, supplied their own orchestra, and local talent, and— But modesty forbids me to go further.

**Debating Society.**—The Debating Class is going very strong, and promises well for the future. Fresh oratorical talent has been discovered at each meeting.

**Library.**—We are more than fortunate in this direction, having two libraries at our disposal—and no shortage of Irish books!

**Cross-country Teams.**—The Cross-country pack indulge in nocturnal runs three times a week. With competent coaches and trainers, and every convenience at their disposal, including hot baths at the conclusion of their runs; the boys in H.Q. are to be envied!

**Recreational Rooms.**—The boys in G.H.Q. are well provided for in this respect. They are extremely lucky in having two recreational rooms at their disposal, one in McKee and one in Parkgate St., equipped with a large variety of indoor games, pastimes, and hobbies, pianos and gramophones, cards, books, and periodicals. The boys' various interests and hobbies are well catered for, and there is yet more to come. We hope to have the broadcaster in McKee in working order shortly.

**Dances.**—In the Terpsichorean section, the Committee responsible for the last dance held in McKee are to be warmly congratulated. Their efforts were crowned with great success. If memory serves me correctly, I think McKee Barracks were again the first in the field in this direction. There were, I observe from perusal of back numbers of "An t-Oglach," umpteen proposals at Portobello Institute meeting for the holding of a dance in Portobello. It would be a matter of general interest to your readers, and personally I should be glad to learn whether any of those proposals have materialised yet. (They have. See the Institute report in this issue.—Editor.)

**Boxing.**—Patrons of the roped arena are more than catered for. The No. 5 Group are to be congratulated on their efforts to supply the boxing enthusiasts with the very best. Beside having provided a permanent ring, complete in every detail, this section has first-class talent, and more than competent instructors—as results up to the present have proved.

Yes! Modesty seems to predominate in McKee, and "hot air" is a trifle scarce!

In conclusion, I think I voice a very large number of your readers in stating that it would prove very interesting reading to have the observations of say some of the boys of the various other Committees throughout the service—for instance, the Artillery boys, or the boys from Collins Barracks, on the article in question.

With the usual apologies for trespassing on your space,—Mise,

"ME LARKIE."

McKee Barracks, Dublin, 3/12/'25.

### DOES NOT STAND ALONE.

#### 5th Brigade Area Challenges Portobello Institute's Supremacy.

Our correspondent with the 5th Brigade writes:—I would like to comment on the remarks of your Portobello correspondent in your issue of 28th November.

While giving all honour (where it is due) to the Amusements Committee in Portobello, I must say that their published remarks anent "Kay" have a really unbecoming flavour. It savours very much of "peevishness" on their part to couple the "developing of their talent" with a "hat big enough to fit Kay."

It has surely been obvious, even to the most disinterested reader that "Kay's" suggestions were made simply and solely to help to further and advance Barrack Amusements, but if all Barrack Committees adopted the attitude taken by the Portobello Committee it would be a cheerless look-out for the "Winter period."

However, we in No. 5 Brigade are broadminded enough to benefit by well-meant suggestions and criticism when offered, and we would like Portobello to know that they do not "still stand alone" as regards Barrack amusements.

We have our weekly Whist Drives, which are becoming so popular as to warrant them being run twice weekly. We have our weekly concerts, with an "all-star" Pierrot Troupe and Jazz Band. We have, this week, the first of a series of boxing tournaments. We have just completed a successful billiard handicap. We have got permission to hold weekly practice dances (now postponed till after Advent), and although we have not got a library, yet, I think that we are in a position to challenge (in quite a friendly way) the supremacy of Portobello, especially when one considers the vast difference in the resources of a "city" and "country" station.

Nevertheless we wish the "Bello" further to see their way to fall in with the Editor's suggestion.



## DANCES IN PORTOBELLO BARRACKS.

### Sanction Obtained and Final Arrangements being made.

The No. 7 Brigade Area Institute Committee held a meeting in the Dry Canteen, Portobello Barracks, on Monday, 30th Nov., at 11 a.m. Reverend Father Casey, C.F., presided. Also present were Commandant Wedick, 23rd Battalion; Commandant Saurin, Adjutant, No. 7 Brigade; Commandant Smyth, Adjutant, Army Signal Corps; Lieutenant Scully, 23rd Battalion; Sergeants Dack and Kennedy (Records), Sergeant Collins (Signals), Sergeant Kiely, Quartermaster-General's Department; Private McKnight (Signals), Private Shevlin (Records), and the Secretary.

Commandant F. Saurin informed the meeting that Colonel McGuinness, owing to pressure of work was unable to attend.

### DANCES IN BARRACKS.

A letter was read from Colonel McGuinness stating that the necessary sanction for holding dances in Barracks had been obtained. The Colonel directed that the following amendments, deletions, and additions, be made:—

"That the title of the committee shall be that of the 'Dance Sub-Committee'; that the appointments in connection with same shall be Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Members.

"That paragraph (7) from the previous scheme be deleted and the following be substituted: 'That the Treasurer will collect and hand over to the Treasurer of the Institute Committee (Comdt. Devlin), all monies collected at weekly and monthly dances.'

Further directions are to the effect that perforated roll tickets be issued, one half of which is to be collected, the other half to be retained by subscriber. It is also intimated that the entire buildings known as the Men's Institute Building, East Square, are now available for recreational purposes, for men, and the large hall attached shall be used for the weekly dances, which shall terminate at 22.00 hours.

On the direction of Colonel McGuinness, a Committee, to be known as the Dance Sub-Committee was formed. In connection with same the following appointments were made:—Chairman, Sergeant Murphy, 23rd Battalion; Treasurer, Sergeant Brogan, 23rd Battalion; Secretary, Sergeant Dack, Records; Members, Sgt.-Major Jones, B.Q.M.S. Murphy, B.Q.M.S. Munster, Ptes. McEvans, Mathers, Doherty and Shevlin.

To this Committee was left the pleasure of making endeavours to have the weekly dances a success and to make full provision to feature and encourage Irish dances among the N.C.O.'s and men. It was also given authority to hire an orchestra.

### MINSTREL TROUPE.

The Secretary of the Minstrel Troupe wrote stating that the Troupe was in need of financial aid.

The Rev. Chairman undertook to remedy things. He promised to use his efforts to obtain instruments from the Army authorities, and hoped to be able to report satisfactorily to the next meeting.

This Troupe was formed two months ago under the direction of Mr. Comerford, and some surprises are in store for those who attend on Thursday night, December 17th, for their first "show" at the Recreation Hall.

### LIBRARY.

Sergeant Dack stated that there was a dearth of books. Rev. Father Casey stated that that would be remedied as soon as the bookcases could be procured from the Board of Works. He also promised to look for them himself, so the matter was left in his capable hands. It is gratifying to know that there is approximately £130 worth of books at Island Bridge Barracks for the use of the No. 7 Brigade Area.

### WHIST DRIVES.

Reports from Sergeant Dack and Whist Drive Committee are to the effect that the attendance on Friday evening has been very satisfactory, and it was decided to continue the weekly Whist Drives during the Winter season.

### CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING.

There seems to be a general spirit of apathy towards this healthy pastime. Commandant Wedick complained that Sergeant Phelan was not receiving the support from the units in Portobello which

was necessary in order to get all that was possible out of this form of recreation.

Sergeant Phelan has kindly consented to coach novices in cross-country running every Wednesday, and the Units in question have no excuse, as notice was published in orders.

In order to encourage and develop cross-country running, Father Casey has generously promised to award three medals (one gold). The medals are to be conferred in accordance with arrangements to be made by those responsible for the organisation of the packs.

### BILLIARD CONTESTS.

Sergeant Kennedy reported that the billiard tournament organised recently had concluded.

It was agreed to open an Inter-Unit Billiard Tournament for the Brigade Area, and judging by the keen competitions in the recent tournament, this event should prove most interesting. It was decided to approach the Army Athletic Association with a view of having a trophy presented by the Association for this contest.

### PREMISES.

The Rev. Chairman expressed satisfaction that the Mens' Institute Building and Recreation Block were now available.

The furnishing and improvement generally of this building was discussed, and Commandant Wedick consented to attend to this important item. No stone will be left unturned to make this newly-acquired recreation building as comfortable as we should like it to be.

### IRISH CULTURE.

In connection with the Irish classes for Officers and men in Portobello, it was proposed to form a sub-committee of the Brigade Area Institute for the purpose of fostering, encouraging, and developing Gaelic pastimes, literature, drama, language and history throughout the Brigade Area.

Lieut. T. Scully was appointed Chairman. An inaugural meeting was held on 3rd inst. Private Shevlin (Records) was elected Secretary. A report of the meeting was furnished to the Officer Commanding No. 7 Brigade, asking for help by having representatives appointed from units of the No. 7 Brigade stationed outside Portobello.

It is encouraging to note that the Irish classes which have been established over two months under the direction of Private Shevlin (Records) have been well attended, in fact the attendance of N.C.O.'s and men has steadily increased. This Irish Culture Sub-Committee, therefore, has a grand opportunity to revive and keep alive the Irish-Ireland spirit throughout the 7th Brigade.

A vote of thanks to the Reverend Chairman concluded the proceedings.

## GRATITUDE TO THE ARMY.

### Former Officer's Letter from New York City.

The Officer in charge of Arrears of Pay Section, Pay and Accounts Sub-Department, Portobello Barracks, Dublin, has just received an acknowledgment from Mr. Edward Breslin, formerly a Lieutenant in the Army, but now resident in New York City, of a cheque for sixty-four pounds and threepence, (£63 0s. 3d.) back pay due in respect of Army Services. In the course of his letter Mr. Breslin says:—

"I ask you and all other Officers concerned to accept my sincere thanks for your generosity in considering my case, and I can assure you that wherever I go I will always esteem in the highest way possible the kind treatment of the Irish Government and its forces in ensuring fair play among all classes. I promise that I will at all times in every way in my power do anything possible to support and uphold the good name of that Government.

"Thanking you a thousandfold, I remain, Yours loyally,

"EDWARD BRESLIN, ex-Lieut."



# THE RESCUE.

## A Cameo of Military Life under the Tsars.

(FROM THE RUSSIAN OF NICOLAI LYESKOV.)

*Nicolai Semyonovitch Lyeskov, a summarised translation of whose story, "The Sentry," is published herewith, was born in 1831, and, earning the disfavour of young Russia, liberal or revolutionary, by his attacks on the Nihilists of the sixties and seventies in two of his earlier novels, was for many years under a cloud in his native country. His work, however, was praised by Tolstoy and Tchekov, and in later years won universal praise in Russia. He died in St. Petersburg in 1896. As Professor Garnett says, "The Sentry" is an excellent objective study of military manners under Tsar Nicholas I., and it reflects in a luminous glass the cast iron rigidity of the code dispensed by the martinets under the Autocrat's frown.*

During the winter of 1839, just before the Festival of the Epiphany, there was a great thaw in Petersburg. The weather was so warm that it was almost like spring; the snow melted during the day, water dripped from the roofs, the ice on the rivers became blue, and open water appeared in many places. On the Neva, just in front of the Winter Palace, there was a large open space. A warm but very high wind blew from the west, the water was driven in from the gulf, and the signal guns were fired.

It was then that trouble, heavy trouble, came to Private Postnikov of the Ismailovsky Regiment, which was providing the guard at the Palace. He was sentry at the outer door when he heard a drowning man calling for help from the open spaces which had appeared in the ice just opposite the building.

Private Postnikov began to realise that it would be quite easy to save this man. It was only necessary to run on to the ice, as the drowning man was sure to be there, throw him a rope, or stretch a pole or a gun towards him, and he would be saved. He was so near that he could take hold of it with his hand and save himself. But Postnikov remembered his service and his oath; he knew he was the sentry, and that the sentry dare not leave his sentry-box on any pretext or for any reason whatever.

But the piteous cries continued, and at last he could stand it no longer.

Postnikov rushed to the steps, with his heart beating violently, ran on to the ice, then into the water that had risen above it. He soon saw where the drowning man was struggling for life, and held out the stock of his gun to him. The drowning man caught hold of the butt-end and Postnikov, holding on to the bayonet, drew him to the bank.

Both the man who had been saved and his rescuer were completely wet; the man who had been saved was in a state of great exhaustion, shivered and fell; his rescuer, Private Postnikov, could not make up his mind to abandon him on the ice, but led him to the quay, and began looking about for somebody to whom he could confide him. While all this was happening, a sledge in which an officer was sitting had appeared on the quay. He was an officer of the Palace Invalid corps, a company which has since been abolished.

This gentleman who arrived at such an inopportune moment for Postnikov was evidently a man of a very heedless character, and, besides, a very muddle-headed and impudent person. He jumped out of his sledge and inquired:

"What man is this? Who are these people?"

"He was nearly drowned—he was sinking," began Postnikov.

"How was he drowning? Who was drowning? Was it you? Why is he here?"

But Postnikov was no longer there; he had shouldered his gun and had gone back to his sentry-box.

Possibly the officer understood what had happened, for he made no further inquiries, but at once took the man who had been rescued into his sledge and drove with him to the Admiralty Police station in the Morskaya Street.

Here the officer made a statement to the inspector that the dripping man he had brought had nearly been drowned in one of the holes in the ice in front of the Palace, and that he, the officer, had saved him at the risk of his own life.

\* Unabridged translations by A. E. Chamot of this and other stories by Lyeskov are published in one volume, "The Sentry," by the Bodley Head, London, at 7s. 6d.

The man who had been saved was still quite wet, shivering and exhausted. From fright, and owing to his terrible efforts, he fell into a sort of unconsciousness, and was quite indifferent to him who had saved him.

The sleepy police orderly bustled around him, while in the office a statement was drawn up from the officer's verbal deposition, and, with the suspicion natural to members of the police, they were perplexed to understand how he had managed to come out of the water quite dry. The officer, who was anxious to receive the life-saving medal, tried to explain this happy concurrence of circumstances, but his explanation was incoherent and improbable. They went to the police inspector, and sent to make inquiries.

### II.

Meantime in the Palace this occurrence was the cause of another rapid series of events.

In the Palace guardroom all that had occurred since the officer took the half-drowned man into his sledge was unknown. There the Ismailovsky officer and the soldiers only knew that Postnikov, a private of their regiment, had left his sentry-box, and had hurried to save a man and, this being a great breach of military duty, Private Postnikov would certainly be tried by court-martial and have to undergo a thrashing, and all his superior officers, beginning from the commander of the company, would have to face terrible unpleasantness, to avert which they would have nothing to say, nor would they be able to defend themselves.

The wet and shivering soldier, Postnikov, was of course at once relieved from his post, and when he was brought to the guardroom frankly related to the Officer Commanding, Captain Miller, all that we already know, with all the details to the moment when the officer of the Invalid Corps put the half-drowned man into his sledge, and ordered the coachman to drive to the Admiralty police station.

The danger grew greater and more unavoidable. It was certain the officer of the Invalid Corps would relate everything to the police inspector, and the inspector would at once state all the facts to the chief of police, Kokoshkin, who in the morning would make his report to the Emperor, and then the trouble would begin.

There was no time for reflection; the advice of the superior officer must be obtained.

Nikolai Ivanovich Miller forthwith sent an alarming note to his immediate superior, the commander of his battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel Svinin, in which he begged him to come to the guardroom as soon as he could to take every possible measure to help him out of the terrible misfortune that had occurred.

It was already about three o'clock, and Kokoshkin had to present his report to the Emperor fairly early in the morning, so that but little time remained for reflection and action.

Lieutenant-Colonel Svinin, after hearing the facts, drove swiftly to Kokoshkin. It was then past four o'clock in the morning.

The General got up at once, and, with an overcoat wrapped round him, wiping his forehead, yawning and stretching himself, came out to receive Svinin. Kokoshkin listened with great attention, but quite calmly, to all Svinin had to relate. During all these explanations and requests for indulgence he only said:

"The soldier left his sentry-box, and saved a man!"

"Yes, sir," answered Svinin.

"And the sentry-box?"

"Remained empty during that time."

"H'm! I knew that it remained empty. I'm very pleased that nobody stole it."

Hearing this, Svinin felt certain that the General knew all about the case, and that he had already decided in what manner he would place the facts before the Emperor in his morning's report, and also that he would not alter this decision. Otherwise such an event as a soldier of the Palace Guard having left his post would, without doubt, have caused greater alarm to the energetic Chief of Police.

But Kokoshkin did not know anything about it. The police inspector to whom the officer of the Invalid Corps had conveyed the man saved from drowning did not consider it a matter of great importance. In his sight it was not at all a subject that required him to awaken the weary Chief of Police in the middle of the night, and, besides, the whole event appeared to the inspector somewhat suspicious, because the officer of the Invalids was quite dry, which certainly could not have been the case if he had saved a man from drowning at the risk of his own life. The inspector looked upon the officer as an ambitious liar who wanted to obtain another medal for his ~~deceitful~~ <sup>deceitful</sup> and therefore detained him while the clerk on duty was taking down his report.



tried to arrive at the truth by asking about all sorts of minute details.

It was disagreeable for the inspector that such an event should have occurred in his district, and that the man had been saved, not by a policeman, but by an officer of the Palace Guard.

### III.

Kokoshkin's calmness could be explained very simply; first, by his terrible fatigue, after a day of anxiety and hard work, and by his having assisted in the night at the extinguishing of two fires, and secondly because the act of the sentry, Postnikor, did not concern him as Chief of Police at all.

Nevertheless, Kokoshkin at once gave the necessary instructions. He sent to the Inspector of the Admiralty Quarter and ordered him to come at once and bring the officer of the Invalid Corps, and the man who had been saved with him, and asked Svinin to remain in the small waitingroom adjoining his office. Then Kokoshkin went into his study, without closing the door, sat down at the table, and began to sign various papers, but he soon rested his head on his hand and fell asleep in his armchair at the table.

In those days there were neither municipal telegraphs nor telephones, and in order to transmit the commands of the chiefs, the "forty thousand couriers" of whom Gogol has left a lasting memory in his comedy, had to ride post-haste in all directions.

This, of course, was not so quickly done as by telegraph or telephone, but lent considerable animation to the town and proved that the authorities were indefatigably vigilant.

Before the breathless inspector, the life-saving officer, and the man rescued from drowning had time to come from the Admiralty police station, the nervous and energetic General Kokoshkin had had time to have a snooze and refresh himself. This was seen in the expression of his face, and by the revival of his mental faculties.

Kokoshkin ordered all who had arrived to come to his study, and with them Svinin too.

"The official report?" the General demanded of the Inspector. The latter silently handed a folded paper to the General, and then whispered in a low voice:

"I must beg permission to communicate a few words to your Excellency in private."

"Very well."

Kokoshkin went towards the bay window followed by the Inspector.

"What is it?"

The Inspector's indistinct whispers could be heard, and the General's loud interjections.

"H'm, yes! Well, what then? . . . . It is possible. . . . . They take care to come out dry. . . . . Anything more?"

"Nothing, sir."

The General came out of the bay window, sat down at his desk, and began to read. He read the report in silence without showing any signs of uneasiness or suspicion, and then turning to the man who had been saved, asked in a loud voice:

"How comes it, my friend, that you got into the open places before the Palace?"

"Forgive me!"

"So! You were drunk?"

"Excuse me, I was not drunk, but only tipsy."

"Why did you get into the water?"

"I wanted to cut across the ice, lost my way, and got into the water."

"That means it was dark before your eyes."

"It was dark; it was dark all round, your Excellency."

"And you were not able to notice who pulled you out?"

"Pardon me, I could not notice anything. I think it was he."

He pointed to the officer, and added: "I could not distinguish anything. I was so scared."

"That's what it comes to. You were loafing about when you ought to have been asleep. Now look at him well and remember who was your benefactor. An honourable man risked his life to save you."

"I shall never forget it."

"Your name, sir?"

The officer mentioned his name.

"Do you hear?"

"I hear, your Excellency."

"You are Orthodox?"

"I am Orthodox, your Excellency."

"In your prayers for health, remember this man's name."

"I will write it down, your Excellency."

"Pray to God for him, and go away. You are no longer wanted."

He bowed to the ground and cleared off immeasurably pleased that he was released.

Svinin stood there, and could not understand how by God's grace things were taking such a turn.

Kokoshkin turned to the officer of the Invalid Corps.

"You saved this man at the risk of your own life?"

"Yes, your Excellency."

"There were no witnesses to this occurrence, and owing to the late hour there could not have been any?"

"Yes, your Excellency, it was dark, and on the quay there was nobody except the sentry."

"There is no need to mention the sentry; the sentry has to stand at his post, and has no right to occupy himself with anything else. I believe what is written in this report. Was it not taken down from your words?"

These words Kokoshkin pronounced with special emphasis, as if he were threatening or shouting.

The officer did not falter, but with staring eyes and expanded chest, standing at attention answered:

"From my words and quite correctly, your Excellency."

"Your action deserves a reward."

The officer bowed gratefully.

"There is nothing to thank me for," continued Kokoshkin.

"I shall report your self-sacrificing act to His Majesty the Emperor, and your breast may be decorated with a medal even to-day. Now you may go home, have a warm drink, and don't leave the house, as perhaps you may be wanted."

The officer of the Invalid Corps beamed all over, bowed and retired.

Kokoshkin, looking after him, said:

"It is possible that the Emperor may wish to see him."

"I understand," answered the Inspector, with apprehension.

"I do not require you any more."

The Inspector left the room, closed the door, and, in accordance with his religious habit, crossed himself.

The officer of the Invalids was waiting for the Inspector below, and they went away together much better friends than when they had come.

Only Svinin remained in the study of the Chief of Police. Kokoshkin looked at him long and attentively, and then asked:

"You have not been to the Grand Duke?"

At that time when the Grand Duke was mentioned everybody knew that it referred to the Grand Duke Michael.

"I came straight to you," answered Svinin.

"Who was the officer on guard?"

"Captain Miller."

Kokoshkin again looked at Svinin and said:

"I think you told me something different before."

Svinin did not understand to what this could refer, and remained silent, and Kokoshkin added:

"Well, it's all the same; good-night."

The audience was over.

And after that? Why, in the interests of discipline, and the cloaking of the facts, Private Postnikov received 200 lashes, which was really very light in comparison with the punishments that the Russian people suffered in those days by order of the Military Courts. He was grateful, especially when Svinin ordered that he should receive on his behalf a pound of sugar and a quarter pound of tea whilst in hospital.

But the author has a little epilogue:—

"If I had the temerity of the happy chosen of Heaven, who through their great faith are enabled to penetrate into the secrets of the Will of God, then I would perhaps dare to permit myself the supposition that probably God Himself was satisfied with the conduct of Postnikov's humble soul, which He had created. But my faith is small; it does not permit my mind to penetrate so high. I am of the earth, earthly. I think of those mortals who love goodness simply because it is goodness, and do not expect any reward for it, wherever it may be. I think these true and faithful people will also be entirely satisfied with this holy impulse of love, and not less holy endurance of the humble hero of my true and artless story."

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## BOXING TOURNAMENTS.

### 25th Battalion Stages Successful Tourney.

#### "A" COMPANY WINS SILVER CUP.

On the nights of the 26th and 27th November a Novices Boxing Competition was staged in the Gymnasium, Custume Barracks, Athlone, the success of which is due to the efforts of the Battalion Boxing Sub-Committee, of which Captain Niall Harrington is President and Lieutenant Gerald N. Coughlan, Corporal Myles McDonagh, and Pte. Long are members. The Competition was witnessed by a large audience, amongst whom were:—Colonels Fitzpatrick and McLoughlin, Majors Woods and McMahon, Commandants Mitchell, Whelan and Sweeney, and the Commanding Officer (Commandant Michael McHugh). The talent, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm displayed by the contestants throughout the competition gave entire satisfaction to the onlookers, and goes to show that the 25th is eager to achieve a still more prominent position in Army Boxing Circles. The Tournament generally was an undoubted success.

The Programme included forty competitors for the Novices' Competition and two Six-Round Contests (2-minute rounds), together with an Exhibition Bout between Corpl. Myles McDonagh, of "D" Company, and Private Peter Harte, of "C" Company, both of whom recently competed in the Irish International Trials.

At the termination of the Tournament valuable Prizes were presented by Commandant B. Sweeney, the Brigade Adjutant of No. 2 Brigade, to the winner and runner-up in each Weight, and a Silver Cup to the Company attaining the highest number of points.

The following Officials who presided over the Competition are due no small amount of thanks and appreciation for the efficient manner in which they discharged their respective duties:—Lieutenant Thomas Collins (Referee), 2/Lieutenant Frederick J. Slater (M.C.), Lieutenant J. Diver, Sergt.-Major Stanley Last, Corpl. Myles McDonagh, Pte. Devine (Judges), Captain Niall Harrington, Lieutenant Gerald N. Coughlan (Timekeepers).

The Results of the Finals in the different Weights were as follows:—

Bantam Weight.—Pte. C. Morrison, "C" Coy., beat on points Sergt. P. J. Pendergast, "H.Q." Company.

Feather Weight.—Sergt. Michael O'Neill, "A" Coy., knocked out C.Q.M.S. Thos. Hearn in the 1st Round.

Light Weight.—Sergt. J. Hurley, "A" Coy., beat Pte. Devlin, "B" Coy., on points.

Welter Weight.—The fight was awarded to Pte. McArdle, "B" Company owing to the fact that Pte. Whelan, of the same Company, having sustained an injury to his thumb, was unable to contest the Final.

Middle Weight.—Pte. Power "A" Company, beat Pte. Broder, "B" Company on points.

Cruiser Weight.—Pte. Maloney, "B" Coy., beat Pte. Ryan, "A" Coy., on points.

#### OTHER CONTESTS.

Bantam Weight.—Pte. Caulfield, "C" Coy., v. Cpl. Dunne, "C" Coy. After a keenly contested match the fight was awarded to the former on points.

Feather Weight.—Pte. O'Shea, "C" Coy., v. Pte. Egan, "D" Coy. This was also a keenly contested match, but Pte. O'Shea proved his superiority over his opponent and was awarded the verdict on points.

The Cup for the Company attaining the greatest number of points in the Novices Competition was awarded to "A" Company, who gained it from "B" Company by the small margin of 2 points.

#### HURLING.

The Battalion Hurling Team proceeded to Longford on the 21st November to contest the Semi-Final of the No. 2 Brigade Hurling League with the 6th Infantry Battalion, which resulted in a win for the latter by the small margin of 1 point. The game was a strenuous one throughout, both teams struggling keenly for the honours of the League. The 25th Battalion were placed at a disadvantage due to three of their foremost players—Ptes. Lenihan, Maher and

Forde—being in hospital. We believe that the result of the game would have been different had these players been in their usual positions on the team.

#### CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING.

The Battalion Cross-Country Running Team is making steady progress under the supervision of Lieutenant Gerald N. Coughlan, Half-Mile Champion of Ireland, and it is anticipated that in the near future they will occupy a large space in the Sporting Notes from this Battalion.

"AN t-SIONNAIN."

## BOXING AT TEMPLEMORE.

### Splendid Display : Promising Novices on View.

By kind permission of Comdt. Liam Walshe, O.C., 12th Infantry Batt., a successful boxing tournament was held at the Gymnasium, Templemore, on Tuesday evening, November 24th. The spacious building was well filled when the first bout commenced. A large number of civilians were present, and with the story of this tournament to advertise, future fixtures in this centre should receive even greater support than that accorded the fixture of November 24th.

A feature of the evening's entertainment was the bouts for the Bantam and Featherweight Championships fought for by two pairs from the 12th Battalion.

This tournament proved what a wealth of boxing talent there is in the Army.

Boxers such as Doyle, Buckley, Kidley, Murphy and McDonagh are already well known. It is heartening to learn that amongst the novices on view at Templemore are boxers who with training and care should prove worthy successors to our past and present champions. The Army Signal Corps, Portobello Barracks and Collins Barracks, Dublin, have two promising men in Ptes. Flattely and Leslie, both pupils of our Cruiser Champion, A/Sergt. W. J. Murphy, P.T. Staff, Cork; whilst Connor, of the A.C.E., Curragh Camp, is the makings of a real champion. Reid and McLoughlin, 12th Batt., show much promise, and put up a sparkling display for the Battalion Bantamweight Championship. Below are details of the tournament.

#### SIX 2-MINUTE ROUNDS.

Pte. Reid, 12th Batt., defeated Pte. McLoughlin, 12th Batt., on points. Both boys opened at a fast pace. The round ended with honours even. The 2nd Round was strenuously contested, Reid gaining the honours by a slight margin. Round 3 was also taken by Reid. Round 4 found McLoughlin at his best; he gained the honours by fine two-handed work. The fifth round was Reid's by a slight margin, and again in the sixth round he gained the honours, to win the Championship with very little to spare. Both boys are in the novitiate stage, and will be heard of to advantage again.

Harte, 25th Batt., defeated O'Donnell, Southern Command Headquarters, on points. This bout was one of the most scientific witnessed for years. O'Donnell has considerably strengthened since we saw him last. Harte gained victory by the narrowest of margins, after six brilliant rounds. A meeting between the pair in a decider is a treat for the future.

The best bout of the evening was that between Sergt. Tobin, 16th Battalion, and Pte. Connor, A.C.E., Curragh Camp. Both men opened at a brisk pace and got to close quarters at once. Tobin's experience stood him in good stead in the opening session, which he won. The second round found Connor shaking off his evident nervousness, and wading in, he dealt out heavy punishment, the bell coming as a welcome to Tobin—Connor's round. Round 3 found Tobin fully recovered and dividing the spoils. Round 4 was Tobin's by a narrow margin. Round 5 was even. Round 6 was Connor's, who made a great effort to gain the verdict, the result—a draw—being well received. On leaving the ring both men received an ovation which lasted some minutes. A return match would be interesting.

Pte. McAlinden, Police Corps v. Driver Finn, Artillery, Kil-dare. McAlinden won by the k.o. in the first round.

Pte. Flattely, A.S.C., Portobello v. Pte. Fleming 16th Batt. Both men started off at a great pace. Continued on his op-



ponent's face with a hard left, dropped him with a right for the count in the first round.

Pte. Leslie, Army Signal Corps, Collins Barracks, Dublin v. Pte. Luddy, 15th Batt., Curragh Camp. Leslie opened up strongly, and k.o'd his opponent in the first round.

Pte. O'Donnell, 23rd Battalion, Portobello, v. Pte. Whelan, 15th Battalion, Curragh Camp. After a fiercely-contested first round, O'Donnell, with a right-hand punch to the solar plexus, k.o'd his opponent in the second round.

Pte. Cronin, 12th Batt., Templemore, v. Pte. Jones, 12th Batt. Cronin was adjudged the winner of an unscientific bout, on points.

Pte. Doyle, 16th Battalion, Cork, v. Sergt. McCarthy, P.T. Staff, Curragh Camp. These old adversaries put up a great battle, Doyle winning on points. McCarthy, although outpointed, gave a game display, and was dangerous to the last gong. McCarthy is anxious for a return contest.

#### Four Round Bouts:—

Pte. Morgan, 23rd Battalion, Portobello, v. Pte. Byrne, Artillery, Kildare. Morgan's experience was the deciding factor in his favour after a close bout.

Pte. Treacey, 22nd Battalion, Portobello, v. Pte. Clarke, R. and T. Depot, Curragh Camp. Both boys showed cleverness at all points. Treacey's aggression won him the decision after a splendid bout. Another meeting is due Clarke.

## ARTILLERY WIN BOXING CUP AT CURRAGH.

The Artillery Corps boxers, who came into the limelight only a very short time ago, scored a big success at the Curragh when they won the Cup awarded for the Novices Boxing Tournament, on 4th inst.

Some excellent fights were witnessed. Driver H. Byrne, of the Artillery, was matched against Private Fitzmorris, 15th Batt., and won a good fight on points. Gunner T. Curtis, Artillery, also won his fight from Private Maloney, A.M.C., while Driver Moans, Artillery, was awarded a "walk-over."

The Cup was presented by Major McCabe, who called for three cheers for the Artillery Corps, which were heartily given.

Afterwards the winners bore their trophy back in triumph to Kildare—even the fact of their lorry breaking down three miles from home could not damp their rejoicing.

"We are looking forward to great things from our boxers," says our correspondent with the gunners.

## 7th BATTALION SPORTS COUNCIL.

### Enterprising Body in Naas also Provide Indoor Amusements.

At a Battalion Sports Council meeting held at Naas Barracks on the 24th ult. the following were present:—Commndt. M. F. Gantly (Chairman), Captain B. Barry (Sect.), Captain Connolly, Lieuts. O'Rourke, Ahern, Cahill, B. S. M. Dunne, Sergts. Johnstone, McCane, Conoran, Corpls. Keyes, Delaney, Hogan, Redmond, Lynch, Ptes. Malone and Harrison.

After some discussion *re* the desirability of purchasing a Wireless set for the Recreation Room, it was decided to purchase a suitable set, Commandant Gantly to make arrangements *re* price, etc.

Owing to Coy. Sergt. O'Connell having been transferred to Baldonnel Camp, Pte. Myers "D" Company was appointed in his stead to take charge of Gym. Class, under the supervision of the B.S.M.

It was decided:—

That Captain Farrell make arrangements for supplying Books, Games, etc., to Reading Room.

That the formation of a Debating Society be left to the men of the Battalion at Naas, to be formed as early as possible.

That 15 pairs of Football Stockings be provided for "C" Company, in lieu of set lost by Battalion Hurling team.

That 30 Hurleys be purchased, same to be sold to the men at cost price.

That "C" Company be supplied with a set of Boxing Gloves, and set of Bayonet Fencing requisites.

That a Hurling and Football team be affiliated with Kildare County Board for coming season, under the name of 7th Battalion.

That one football each be given to "A" Coy., "C" Coy., and Naas Garrison, and one kept in reserve in Battalion Store.

That six sets of running shoes be purchased for Battalion Cross-Country Team.

That B.S.M. Dunne and Sergt. McCabe make arrangements to hold a smoking concert in Barracks on Christmas Day, with the assistance of a sub-committee composed of two delegates from each Company of the Garrison, first meeting of sub-committee to be held on Monday, 30th instant.

"C" Company challenge to "B" Company in football was accepted, and a match fixed for 3 p.m. on 28th instant at Naas. Referee—Lieut. Connolly.

Owing to his having been transferred from Battalion H.Q. to Baldonnel, Capt. Barry tendered his resignation as Secty. to the Battalion Sports Council, which was accepted. On the motion of Lt. Ahern, seconded by B.S.M. Dunne, it was decided that Corpl. Lynch be appointed Secty. of the Battalion Sports Committee.

It was proposed by Pte. Malone and seconded by Lieut. O'Rourke that Captain Connolly take charge of Whist Drives, instead of Captain Barry (resigned).

Proposed by Lieut. O'Grady, seconded by Sergt. McCabe, that B. S. M. Dunne take charge.

Proposed by Corpl. Keyes, seconded by Lieut. Ahern, that Lieut. O'Grady take charge.

Proposed by Captain Connolly, seconded by B.S.M. Dunne, that Lieut. Ahern take charge.

On a show of hands, Lieut. Ahern was appointed.

## KEEN BOXING CONTESTS AT ISLANDBRIDGE.

On Wednesday night, 2nd inst., G.H.Q. boxing team paid a visit to the well-equipped gymnasium at Islandbridge, and opposed a local team. The G.H.Q. boys won, but the return contests will very likely have a different result. There has been little training done so far by either team, but there is no room for doubting that there is plenty of talent in both.

We were treated to a few splendid bouts on 2nd inst., and special mention must be made of the contests between Doyle and Walsh and Donelon and Fowler. Doyle has hopes of being well in the running this season for Army honours, hence when Walsh—a new-comer—appeared in the ring, the result seemed a foregone conclusion. As it turned out, after the opening spar, Walsh was doing all the boxing, and it looked as if he would get the verdict. A draw, however, was given.

In Donelon, G.H.Q. possesses a boxer and a fighter as well. We hope to see plenty of him in future. The veteran Sergt. O'Grady was lucky to effect a draw with O'Meara.

Altogether a fine night's sport was enjoyed. In presenting the prizes (to losers as well as winners), Capt. Stapleton said that from what had been seen that night there was no reason why Islandbridge should not go one better next time. They had to thank G.H.Q. for coming that night and so helping in a try-out which was good for both teams. The fights that night were fought out in a splendid sporting spirit, and it was to be hoped that in future there would be many of these contests.

The officials were:—M.C., Lieut. J. Fitzgerald; Referee, Sergt. Kiely; Judges, Capt. O'Beirne and Sergt. Clarkin; Timekeeper, Sergt. O'Hanlon. Results:—

Pte. Burns (G.H.Q.) beat Pte. McGibney. Burns was the stronger boxer, and the towel came from McGibney's corner after the fifth round.

Pte. McTiernan (Islandbridge) beat Pte. Cauty (G.H.Q.), the latter retiring after three rounds.

Pte. Donelon (G.H.Q.) beat Pte. Fowler (Islandbridge) on points. Donelon proved the best boxer of the night, and was a good winner.

Sergt. O'Grady (Islandbridge) beat Pte. O'Meara (G.H.Q.) on points. O'Meara gave a good display.

Pte. Leadon (G.H.Q.) beat Pte. Moran (Islandbridge), the latter retiring after three rounds.

Pte. Lynch (G.H.Q.) beat Pte. Sullivan in the first round.

Pte. Walsh (G.H.Q.) and Pte. Doyle (Islandbridge) boxed a draw. Doyle was expected to prove an easy winner, but Walsh had plenty of ringcraft, and seemed to be a little ahead when the verdict was given.

Pte. Walsh (Islandbridge) beat Pte. Boyle (G.H.Q.), the latter retiring after two rounds. It was a whirlwind affair whilst it lasted.

Pte. Kinsella (G.H.Q.) beat Pte. Lynn (Islandbridge). A hard-hitting bout until Lynn, after being saved by the bell, retired in the last round.

"REUTER."



## “SPORTING PROPOSITION.”

### Moroccan Expeditionary Force Decided by Lottery.

#### FRANCE'S CURIOUS METHODS.

The French, as a race, love gambling. It is in their blood. They like lotteries. So now, according to a special decree issued by M. Paul Painlevé, when Premier and Minister for War, those of the young conscripts called for service in Morocco are to be chosen by the drawing of lots.

France, in common with the other Continental countries, has a compulsory period of Army service, from eighteen months to two years, that must be undergone by every young man as a training.

Whenever there is a smallish war, like the present trouble in Morocco, the voice of the country is raised in protest if any of the youths called up for ordinary military training service are sent to the active front, it being popularly felt that any but the very largest wars should be attended to by the regular army.

This decision to select by lot will, it is thought, be recognised as a “sporting proposition,” giving everyone an equal chance of avoiding the unpleasant duty. It contains also, possibly, a tacit admission that the Riffian war is too big to be dealt with exclusively by France's professional soldiers.

The new decree further stipulates that any of the young conscripts called up for their military service who make special request (as many do) to go to Morocco on active service will be allowed to go. They will, in fact, constitute the first class to be sent overseas. After them, “according to our needs, and after the other resources provided . . . have been called upon and used up,” the youths accomplishing their eighteen months' training will be taken alphabetically. The letter at which the calling begins is to be determined for each contingent by the drawing of lots.

Except at their own request, all young men who are married and have children, or are widowed and have children, or are the eldest sons of widows with families, or the oldest of orphan families dependent upon them, or who have already a member of their family in active service, or two members of whose families were killed in the Great War, are exempt from Moroccan service until further notice.

Provision is made for the total or part exemption of certain other classes on the lines already laid down hypothetically in 1923. Preferences as regards exemption from active service is, curiously, given to members of large families. This is a peculiarity of French administration. The American attitude, and that of the English, when they finally were obliged to adopt conscription during the European war, was that consideration should be given as far as possible to only sons, particularly only sons of widows. France is severely practical. Her depopulation problem is acute. At all costs the large family must be encouraged. France regards the woman who has had only one child as having failed in her duty to her country, and shows favour in every way to youths whose mothers have the largest families.

The measure providing for drawing by lot is to come into force immediately.



## G.H.Q. COMMAND COUNCIL.

### Annual Convention Postponed : Artillery Transfer : The Canteen Rebate.

A meeting of G.H.Q. Command Council was held on 30th ult. at McKee Barracks, when the following were present:—Major T. McGrath (presiding); Commandant P. Ennis, Capt. J. Hawe, Lieut. Cummisky, S.M. Woods, S.M. Brophy, S.M. Cummins, Sergt. Piggott, Cpls. O'Neill and Maguire (Asst. Hon. Sec).

It was reported that the All-Army Handball Championship at the Curragh resulted in a win for G.H.Q. Command in both Hard Singles and Doubles. The Secretary was instructed to communicate with Commandant Colgan, A.A.A. concerning the cups for the latter events.

The Captain of the G.H.Q. Command Hurling Team reported that the cup for the All-Army Hurling Championship had not been received. It was decided to communicate with the Secretary, Army Athletic Association, in regard to same.

Commandant P. Ennis raised the question of the disposal of the gate receipts in connection with the Hurling and Football Championships between G.H.Q. and Eastern Command, held at Croke Park, on Sunday, 11th October, 1925. It was contended that the receipts should be divided between the Commands taking part in these competitions. As a result of the discussion, the meeting decided that the Secretary should communicate with Commandant Colgan, A.A.A. on the matter.

#### Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman stated that the annual general meeting had been fixed for that date (30th November). He referred to the absence of the Secretary (Lieut. C. S. Doyle) on duty at the Curragh, and to the fact that Sergt. Pigott was acting Secretary. He was not aware if any definite arrangements had been made for the holding of the Convention, but he pointed out that intimation should be conveyed to the Secretaries of each of the Command Groups that the Convention was to be held on a fixed date, and that motions which groups desired to submit, should be received by the Secretary before an appointed date. After discussion with the Treasurer, he considered it advisable to postpone the Convention fixed for that day, and to regard that as an ordinary meeting. He suggested that a secretary be appointed to carry on, pending the Convention, and on his motion, seconded by S.M. Brophy, Captain Hawe was appointed.

The Chairman also drew attention to the fact that the scheme of organisation of the Army Athletic Association would, in all probability, be made the subject of discussion at the next Convention.

It was decided to hold the Convention at 6.30 p.m. on the 18th December. Two representatives were to attend from each Group, and nominations from the Groups for the positions of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, would be received, together with motions which it was desired to discuss, by the Secretary, not later than 14/12/25. The Groups were requested to instruct their delegates in the matter of voting, etc.

The matter of the present Group System was referred to, and it was considered probable that a revision of same would be necessary.

#### Artillery Transfer.

Sergeant-Major Cummins referred to the question of the transfer of the Artillery Corps from the G.H.Q. Command.

The Chairman stated that the All-Army Convention alone can sanction the transfer, and that the matter could be brought up at the Command Convention, with a view to deciding as to whether the application should go forward or not.

Corporal O'Neill referred to the case of Phil Sullivan, who, he stated, was entitled to an All-Army medal, having taken part in the All-Army Championship match with G.H.Q., against Curragh Command.

Sergt.-Major Cummins and Commandant P. Ennis seconded that the medal be granted. This was unanimously agreed to.

#### Canteen Rebate.

Sergeant-Major Brophy referred to the appropriation of 20 per cent. of the Canteen Rebate by the G.H.Q. Command Council.

The Chairman pointed out that the Council had not the control of this matter, as it was arranged by the Chief of Staff, the Adjutant-General, the Quartermaster-General, and the G.O.C. of each Command. In conference they decided that one-fifth of the rebate should be deducted and handed over to each Command Council for the benefit of the men. This arrangement had only been in operation a few months, and the money so deducted went to the Treasurer of the Command Council.

#### Cross-Country Running.

The Chairman referred to the opportunities at this season for developing cross-country running. He pointed out that the cross-country championships would be held in March next, and requested all Groups to start training as early as possible.

Comdt. Ennis stated that No. 5 Group were already making progress in this direction, and that the runners of the Group were at present in training. He also drew attention to the need for the development of indoor amusements for the benefit of the men.

Sergeant-Major Cummins made reference to the fact that the Artillery Group had already begun a series of whist drives.

[Reports like the foregoing are cordially invited from all other sections of the Army Athletic Association throughout the country. Let your comrades in other units know what you are doing. Ed. “An t-Oglach.”]



# SHRAPNEL

It usually is a happy marriage if he will give and she will forgive.

If only philanthropists would give it back to the same people they took it from.

One thing women's clothes leave to the imagination is what makes them so expensive.

An American film producer says it is easier to move an audience to tears than to laughter. Especially with one of their comic films.

It was a red-letter day at Locarno for everybody but the Reds.

Another general aid to longevity is the fact that the good die young.

Our idea of comfortable circumstances would be to have enough to be scared to death about Communism.

It is a queer world, and the boy who fails in two subjects may some day employ dozens who headed the class.

Instructions to telephone users say that we ought not to drop the final syllable of any words. Especially when saying "Hello!"

TRIUMPHANT THRIFT.

He: "But don't you cook much more for dinner than we use, darling?"

She: "Of course, silly! If I didn't, how could I economise by making left-over dishes?"

A SILVER LINING.

Mrs. Knowall took a great interest in the doings of all the neighbours. It was a great day for her when a new arrival came to the house on the opposite side of the street, and she watched with interest as the furniture was removed from the van and carried into the house.

"Well," said her husband, when he returned from business in the evening. "Have you found out anything about the social standing of the new folks across the street?"

"Not yet," was the reply. "They have no car."

"Yes, and they have no Pom., no gramophone, no radio, and not even a grand piano. I can't imagine what they have got?"

"Humph!" remarked friend husband, sardonically. "Perhaps they have a bank account."

A CONGO BANQUET:—

More than 10,000 Syracuse women cooked on Hessler's  
Andes Ranges to-day.

—An advt. in the "Syracuse Herald."

## INGRATITUDE.

Howard: "Biggs has a million dollars due to his ancestor's thrift."

Jay: "What's he buying with it?"

Howard: "Different ancestors."

DOESN'T PLAY FAIR.

"Dad, I ain't going to school any more."

"Eh! Why?"

"It's no bally good—I can't learn to spell. The teacher keeps changing the words."

HOME SWEET HOME.

Sweet Young Thing: "Tell me, don't you sailors ever get most terribly homesick?"

Old Seafarer: "Well, I daresay we should if we had to stop there any length of time."



OF INTEREST TO ALL MOTORISTS.

All who have to do with Army motor cars must be acquainted with the Irish Radiator Company, 72 Bride Street, Dublin, who do a considerable amount of work for the troops—a recent order being three complete new radiators for Lancia lorries. Mr. M. J. Fennell, of the Irish Radiator Co., claims that he was the first in Ireland to specialise in this class of work, having been in the business just twenty years. He has reduced the work of radiator repairing to a fine art, and in the case of the more popular cars such as the Ford and the Morris, can put things right in the cooling department in an amazingly short time and at surprisingly low prices. A separate department of the concern deals with repairs to mudguards and general sheet metal work, such as petrol tanks and lamps. New guards and tanks are made to order, the workmanship in general being of the highest class and the prices most moderate. Some of the headlamp repairs are little short of amazing. Highly skilled and conscientious workmanship combined with low prices are the outstanding features of the concern.



## G.H.Q. HURLING AND FOOTBALL TEAMS ELECT CAPTAINS.

Last week the G.H.Q. hurling and football teams met to elect captains for the coming year. Although sufficient notice had been given, very few members turned up at either meeting.

The football members elected C.Q.M.S. P. J. Hodgins as captain of the "A" team, and Sergt. J. Harvey as captain of the "B" team. C.Q.M.S. Hodgins is a resourceful back, and should make a good coach.

The hurling members elected Cpl. D. O'Neill as captain, and Pte. R. Lanigan as vice-captain. Both are experienced hurlers, and the team will not want in leadership by those selections. The question of the formation of a second team will probably be discussed at the next group meeting.

It was decided to recommend to the Command Council, through the Group meeting, that the G.H.Q. hurling team be allowed to enter in outside competition. It was pointed out that there are at present many Army teams competing in competitions outside.

The captains of the football teams will represent their teams at the Group meetings.

In the case of the hurling team Cpls. O'Neill and Hayes will represent them at the meetings.

On the proposition of Cpl. O'Neill, seconded by Cpl. Henrick, a vote of condolence was passed to Cpl. Hayes on the death of his mother.

It was decided to send a hurling challenge to the 17th Batt., Mullingar. Such a match should prove a big attraction, as G.H.Q. are not satisfied with the previous result, when the 17th won at Croke Park.



## SOLDIERS' CLUB, COLLEGE ST., DUBLIN.

The Soldiers' Club recently opened at 5a College Street, Dublin (at the side of Trinity College), forges steadily ahead as a centre of activity for all N.C.O.'s. and men of Oglagh na hEireann. Since our last issue, Weekly Whist Drives have been arranged for Thursday evenings, commencing at 7 p.m., and judging by the attendance this form of entertainment is decidedly popular among the troops.

The sleeping facilities have been exceedingly well patronised—especially at week-ends, but even during the week several with sleeping out passes avail themselves of this accommodation. Preference is given in this matter to soldiers who are passing through Dublin, or on leave in the city. The Committee notice with pleasure that many soldiers write in advance to the Superintendent of the Club to book their bed or room. For those coming from the country and arriving late at night, this is an excellent precaution. A postcard giving the soldier's name, unit, date and hour of arrival will suffice and the room or bed will be reserved, unless accommodation is not available.

The Billiard Room is much frequented and all soldiers desirous of entering the forthcoming tournament for valuable prizes presented by the Committee, should write their names on the form at the Club Billiard Room. A big list of Entries is expected.

Within the past few weeks many additional attractions have been added, including a Wireless Outfit with loud speaker. Programmes are received from various centres, including Daventry, and, judging by the attendance, the Wireless items are greatly appreciated by the Troops.

Another new feature is that the Portobello Barracks Minstrel Troupe under Mr. Comerford's able direction will perform at the Club Rooms one evening each week in future.

The Club offers rare opportunities, library, reading, billiard and writing rooms; and meals at very moderate prices, to all N.C.O.'s. and men of the Army. It is a genuine National Soldier's Rendezvous—and the Slogan now heard in most of Barracks is "Meet me at the Club to-night" for there a real *Cead Mile Failte* exists for N.C.O.'s. and Men of Oglagh na hEireann.

## OUT ON FRIDAY, DEC. 18.

## The Christmas Number of "An t-Ógláic"

Will contain many extra pages of seasonable illustrations including a number of Historic War Pictures in Colour.

Amongst the many other Special Features will be a Humorous Four-act Drama,

### "Hark to the Mistletoe"

By Gerald MacNamara, Author of "Thompson in Tir-na-nOg," "The Throwbacks," "The Mist that does be on the Bog," etc., etc.

This Number will also contain a seasonable Military Sketch, entitled

### "The Ghosts of G.H.Q."

In addition Cash Prizes are offered in a

### Simple Competition.

On Sale Everywhere on  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18th  
Price - - Threepence

Army Agents are requested to place their Orders immediately.







## COLLINS BARRACKS, DUBLIN.

The friendly Match mentioned in last issue between 21st and 23rd Battalions took place all right, and after a very strenuous and pleasant game the 21st went under, the score being 8 points to 5.

This is the first reverse 21st have met for a long time, but methinks that had the full Team been available they would not have been defeated. However, the 23rd played a splendid game, and their followers seemed highly elated by their victory. Should another match be arranged it will create a great deal of interest.

Many thanks to the Sports Committee of the 23rd Battalion for their kind treatment at conclusion of Match.

The 21st have been invited to visit Drogheda again on 13th inst. in aid of a charitable purpose, and have accepted.

A cross-country Team in Barracks is hard at training.

The usual weekly "Whisht" takes place in the Men's Recreation Rooms, and will be continued each Tuesday Night until further notice.

The concerts held in Barracks in aid of the Arbour Hill Boy Scouts did not have the patronage anticipated, but a crowded house in the Boys' Hall, Arbour Hill on the 29th ult. will have made up for this. Programmes in connection with such concerts continue to be good. Sgt. G—as a "Darkie" with the Troupe makes up well.

"Scully" is an adept at step-dancing, judging by his performance as a member of the audience. Can't he be induced to take the stage?

The A.C.C. boys of Collins' are being catered for through "An t-Oglach," and the original Scribe did not find it hard to locate the identity of the new one. But there's plenty of room for all.

Many members of the audience at recent concerts held in Barracks clamoured for the "Head" of the Scouts to give them the famous recitation about "Dangerous Dan," but will have to await a further opportunity.

The One and Only J. J. McM. was received with loud applause on taking the chair on one of the "Whisht" Nights—and with even a louder applause on leaving it.

N.C.O. (to Soldier).—"Get up at once, or you will not give the P.O. Double Tap this week."

"Three of a Kind"—McCormick, "Nobby," and Alcock.

"Nobby" wants to know why a certain Soldier Wears his Trade Attire at Half Mast?

Latest News :—The Men have challenged N.C.O.'s to a Billiard Match, Winners to be open for Matches with Teams from other Battalion.

When was "Claude" promoted Chairman?

The "Income" Man is again busy.

## EASTERN COMMAND H.Q. NOTES.

The Mess Committee are doing things in style now; and perhaps we shall have the long-expected "China," tablecloths and flowers, not to mention innumerable other comforts, such as table napkins, etc., by Christmas.

Frank got a hearty send off on his departure for a new sphere of life.

The Company expect a change to fall on —

"Manchester" was accorded a rousing *cead mile failte* on his return from the "Black Country."

Congratulations to Tim on his new appointment.

What a shining light Loy has turned out to be!

Spencer is forging ahead in the Billiards Handicap.

Some of the boys attended a Concert in Arbour Hill recently and were highly delighted with themselves.

"The Fountain" Picture House has become a rendezvous, since the Coupons began to appear in "An t-Oglach."

The "Boy Wonder" is going strong at Collins Barracks; his narrative entitled "A Storm in a Fog" is worth hearing.

## THINGS WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW.

Why the meeting in No. 51 recently, and who would imagine we had such orators?

What did the boys think, when they saw the "Nigger" wake up? Had he a close shave that morning?

Who was responsible for the "plait" cannon, off Black on to Red, and did "Wexford" approve of it?

If Con was not a man of some importance recently?

If somebody did not come a "nasty cropper" recently?

Who said "Jack" was "Time-washing" the stairs before "Reveille" one Monday morning?

Who said Charlie can't "chop" sticks

Who is considering getting a "Swift" on the "pay as you ride" system, and if, judging by a recent performance, a "Slow" and pay as you fall would not be a better investment—especially for the Cycle Company?

If "Delaney" had some trouble in getting into bed one night recently, and who does he suspect?

How does "Nobby" like his new apron?

This Week's Slogan: "Roll on Christmas, there's a good time coming."

ASKE.



## 15th INFANTRY BATTALION, CURRAGH.

A committee has been formed, consisting of one Officer, one N.C.O., and one man per Company, for the purpose of looking after the recreation and indoor amusements of the N.C.O.'s and men of this Battalion during the Winter months. All the boys are looking forward to an enjoyable time as soon as this committee gets working properly. They have already staged an Inter-Company Boxing Tournament, which proved a wonderful success, also a whist drive, which was much appreciated by all ranks. We are looking for "some more."

Pte. Buckley, the Army Fly-weight Champion has recently been transferred from the Reception and Training Depot. Much credit is due to him and his assistants for the way our Battalion Boxing Team turned out to compete in the Command Boxing Tournament. The training they received was evident, as they won the Inter-Unit Cup by 38 points.

The Battalion Hurling Team won the Command Championship, beating the Reception and Training Depot by 2 goals and 1 point.

Our football team also came out on top in the Command Championship, beating the 8th Battalion in the final by a good margin. It was a very hard-fought game, but the boys were never in doubt as to the result.

Since the tug-o-war, which was pulled some time ago, we had not the opportunity of congratulating the Artillery Corps for the fine pull they gave our boys. We were the losers, but we are in nowise daunted.

When will the Sergeants hold their next Whist Drive?

Pte. Somers was awarded the Cup presented by Messrs. Elvery and Co., as the best all-round athlete in the 5th and 15th Batt. Sports. We thank Messrs. Elvery & Co. very much for their beautiful trophy.

The Battalion Band has been in oblivion for some time.

Which Company will win the shooting competition. After their course of musketry the recruits are doing well. Pte. Kelly, of "C" Company, got a 2-inch group dead on at six o'clock on the bull, and the Premier Company have to shoot yet.

How do the boys like their new Company Captain?

We were all sorry to see Lieut. Murphy had been transferred to another Unit, and wish him the best of luck. It is to be hoped he will not forget the 15th.

That was a very thoughtful Brigade Officer who had the clothing of "D" Company dried in one hour, when they were soaking wet, after coming in from the range. It's our good fortune to be in the 8th Brigade.

We have now got our Institute in full swing, fully equipped with billiard table, etc. This is much appreciated by the men, as they now have plenty of amusement for the Winter nights.

It is hoped that the Sergeants will make a move in the same direction without further delay.

The 15th Battalion will give wholehearted support to the erection of a "Collins Memorial Stadium," as suggested by Comdt. Colgan in a recent issue of "An t-Oglach." Comdt. O'Conlon, we understand, is forwarding some suggestions on the subject shortly.





## PORTOBELLO BARRACKS, DUBLIN.

Football Matches (particularly when the home side wins) are not conducive to the better development of tenor voices for Minstrel Troupes—so "Spud" says—and certainly when Murrhy scored that goal some of our best voices were in grave danger of cracking up.

It was more by good luck than design that the 23rd fielded such a good combination as they did in their "friendly" with the 21st the other day. It is only when such a match is impending that they (23rd) think of "digging up" a battalion team. Of course they were lucky in finding such players as Lieut. Tummin and "Mick" Fennel available.

Not for a moment do we wish to belittle the efforts of such a strong team as the 21st, but there can be no doubt that the better football of the 23rd caused the defeat of the "crack" team.

However, the result should show the 23rd what they are capable of doing, and tend towards the better development of what should prove the best battalion team in the Army.

An Inter-Company match between "C" and "D" Companies (23rd) a few days later gave Matthews of "D" Company an opportunity of showing what he could do. He seemed to hold a magnetic influence for the ball, and was the chief instrument through which "D" gained a very easy victory. Of course "Wooder" was delighted, but described the whole performance as "cushy."

The allocation of the old Institute Premises for its proper use will prove a big boom, and the Institute Committee (ever ready to seize an opportunity) has already got the large hall converted into a first class Ball Room.

The dancers in Barracks would appear to be legion, and with the introduction of their fair friends from the outside world, very large social gatherings are anticipated. However, the hall will hold 200.

Wednesday evenings (7 to 10 p.m.) have been set apart for dancing, and if the boys in other barracks are *real* good we might give them an odd invitation.

It is rumoured that "Dan" has already "touched" "Wally" for a loan of his hair oil.

The introduction of evening Gym Classes by B.S.M. Jones is an interesting departure. Anything "Ted" does not know about Gym work is not worth knowing, and it is possible that later on we may be entertained by such items as "Wooder" doing hand-springs from the door of the Mess to the Bar, or "John" Kennedy standing on his head on a Billiard Ball.

Another interesting "departure" is that of "Signals" from Portobello. We are sorry to lose "Sigs," and we hope that our numerous pals amongst them will not forget where Portobello is.

Rumour has it that "H.Q. Company, P.A.'s" are coming down here as our new "Guests." They should certainly add a *bit* of colour to the old barracks.

Our Irish teacher is having a very busy time. He now handles six classes during the week, which, when all is said and done, is no mean undertaking, when one considers what the teaching of Irish in its very elementary stages must mean and the patience required.

The published notes from the 1st Battalion are not causing us nearly so much trouble now as they did some time ago.

Táimís arís uile i bparlaimint go mall áit go cinnte leis ár bparlaimint féin, agus tá súil againn go dtiocfaid an t-am nuair a bheadh cóim fuiriste óinn teanga ár sinsear do scriob. do labairt is do léigean [agus is fuiriste teanga na nGall fé láfain.

There are queer things done, that cause much fun  
By the men who handle cues.  
Billiard "kings" have said some things  
Not fit to print as news.

The shaded lights have seen queer sights,  
But the queerest, it may be said,  
Was that night in the mess from 3 yards or less  
That "Ginger" screwed in off red.

## No. 2 COMMAND COMPANY A.T.C., ATHLONE.

Where does the fishy smell come from?

N.C.O. (not in Athlone).—"Nine paces backward. Forward—March!"

We regret to announce the demise, under suspicious circumstances, of "Speedy's" goldfish. It is the opinion of many that an inquest should have been held.

The gentleman who sang "The Cruel Dawn" on the morning which saw the finish of the all-night dance, put gallons of pathos into his rendering.

Hickson looks like having a rival for the vacancy on the "Tug-of-War Team." It is whispered that the "Store Sergt." is a "probable."

Geoff is reported to have added boxing to his list of accomplishments. Exactly, what does Loftus think of it?

Considerable interest and speculation was aroused by Jim's discovery in the back of the car.

We wish to contradict the rumour that they stock hair oil in the stores.

A "Universal" education enables one to write a proper "recker-sition."

We were going "to ask" Dan what he thinks of ledger leaves but have decided not to do so until we get ear pads.

There is much speculation as to when, if ever, "Ali Baba" will be produced. The "Shareholders" want to know if the "Forty Thieves" have stamped the dividends.

## PATHETIC DITTY.

The lamb that Mary used to own,  
With her was always found.  
Like Mary was the Transport Man  
Who owned the big black hound:  
It nosed around the workshops—  
A dangerous thing you know,—  
Then smelt a Ford, and, unlike Jim,  
Found out where currents go.

(Funeral Private).

This Week's Slogan:—"A car on the road is worth two in the ditch."



## ARTILLERY CORPS, KILDARE.

We can't say why the Bucket was isolated unless there was danger of "Mokey" kicking it.

Was Driver C— thinking of going back to the Farm when he described the lands of the rifle as the "fields"?

Can Corporal X tell us how to "move to the right in diagonal march—half left turn."

"Stitching-only" has passed out in rifle drill, but what did he tell his "butty" about it?

How much (in blades) did it cost Gunner G— to make that piece of fretwork?

The Waxies' ditty, "Who made you Lance Corporal?" is only "One candle power," although some people are of the opinion that it is the second Hookum of "Come up on the Left."

"Battle Cry" is said to be a "dead cert" for the Governor-General's Cup. What about the "Little Mare"?

Who took the four pieces of coal? What was the "Sentry" doing?

At a Sergt.'s Mess Meeting recently a member wishing to speak a few words asked the president to "wait a minute for a second." We are still waiting.

It would be impossible to say what is wrong with the gunner who wanted to know "What is the *ferocity* of the bullet?"

A certain Corporal was so long at the barber's shop that the remark was passed "that's a very long hair-cut Corpl. X is getting."

Who is the Driver who can write his name with the Flags? Could he do it in shorthand?

We can emphatically state it was not one of our N.C.O.'s who, when calling the roll, said, "Those who are here will say 'present,' and those who are not here will say 'absent.'"

Is it the "Frosty" weather that is responsible for the recent attempts at "Moustache" growing?"



## 5th BRIGADE NOTES (19th and 20th Batts.).

A Concert and Pierrot entertainment was given on Monday night, to celebrate the opening of the Gymnasium. The Hall, which was profusely decorated, was packed to capacity, and everyone of the 400 present thoroughly enjoyed a performance which surpassed anything yet staged in No. 5. The Pierrots and their Jazz Band created a sensation, each succeeding number being better than its predecessor. The performance reflects great credit on the troupe, who had only a few days' practice.

Pte. Gorman was an admirable "ould wan." Meagher and Noonan, egged on by their pals, rendered "O'Hara and McNamara." Capt. Downey sang "When all was Young" tastefully. The Misses Doyle danced delightedly, as did Miss O'Brien, while little Miss Grinsell gave an excellent Dance and Recitation, both of which earned thunderous applause. Phelan was again to the fore, while the versatile twain, Joynt and Bowes, creditably got through their items.

The Committee who had charge of the arrangements fully deserved the congratulations showered on them.

Commndt. Ryan and several of the 19th Battalion Officers were present.

Sgt. G. Parselle, as usual, capably filled the role of M.C.

The Billiard Handicap in the Sergt.'s Mess finished up with a surprising win for C.Q.M.S. Morrissey over the genial Sgt. Parselle. The latter, as usual, played a really splendid game, but "Sam" stayed on to win by the narrow margin of 12. Both Winner and Second received enthusiastic applause. Another Handicap is expected shortly, when the popular George may have his revenge.

Sgt. Roche said in the Mess the other night that the boys of the Signal Corps were akin to Angels. Probably now we will have to call them "halo" boys.

Soldier to M.O.—"Doctor, I've swallowed an oil bottle."

M.O.—"Don't worry lad; you'll pull thro'."

We read in the papers that parts of Motor Bikes have been made from paper. Which accounts for the way they tear along the roads.

What is the difference between a Criterion No. 2 and a Carrot? None.

Who was the C.Q.M.S. that said that Clubs were the ruin of many a young man, and was it because he hadn't enough of them when they were Trumps on Wednesday night?

Is "Joe Soap" (the Athlone Scribe) any relation to our Kilkenny Joe? And what does Rory say?

Was it the Transport Sgt. who said that Jimmy Meagher was the "hit" of the Pierrot Troupe?

"How do you expect that Yuletide over Christmas?" asked the Officer of Sgt. Haire.

"Well, Sir, so long as I steer clear of the Mistletoe I won't fall fowl of anything Goosey," replied the gallant Sergeant.

This week's "Free issue"—"Sleeping Draughts."

## THINGS WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW.

Who is the "White Hope" of the Sergt.'s Mess?

Did "Budgey" find room enough in the attache case for his socks?

If our N.C.O.'s at the Curragh won't get a surprise when they return?

If the Sergt.'s Mess "Smoker" isn't long overdue?

What did J. M. mean when he said it was a "real healthy performance"?

Can Fernie really Box?

What did the members of the Cpl.'s Mess do to the "Range"?

Has "Me Larkie" discovered my 'phone number yet?

When is John Dowd going to get his China?

What are Bill Morris's football colours?

Who said that "Duff" for Breakfast, Dinner and Tea, was a bit tough?

What Melbourne Inman thinks of Sexton?

When the Transport are going to get a "red neck." Whist!!

A very successful Whist Drive was held last Thursday night, with a record crowd in attendance. The proceedings were enlivened by Sgt. Parselle's Gramophone, without which the Drives would lose a lot of their "draw." A capable Committee look after the games, with the popular "George" as M.C. It is to be hoped that the Committee will see their way to run the Drives twice weekly.

"ARGUS."

## 24th INFANTRY BATTALION, CLONES.

The activities of the 24th Batt. Sergeant's Mess have aroused widespread interest, particularly its decision to establish a beer bar.

Now that J. B. has become a member of the Mess, we anticipate no grub shortage.

The gramophone and piano add to the comforts of the Mess, and already many customers have been weaned from the "Hotel de Scratch."

We wonder greatly if the inhabitants of Carrickmacross have gained any material advantages from their experiences of military tactics of a recent date. Corporal XX. left no stone unturned in his endeavours to promote a spirit of military co-operation should the necessity arise.

The following story has reached this camp from America:—A Commanding Officer who was an enthusiastic student of astronomy, observed that an eclipse of the sun was about to take place. Forthwith he ordered the bugler to sound "Orderly Sergeants" without delay.

When the Orderly Sergeants arrived the C.O. addressed them thusly: "I want you to take this down in your Detail Book, and give the same out to your respective companies: 'To-morrow morning, at a quarter to eight, there will be an eclipse of the sun. The Battalion will parade in sufficient time, on the parade ground, to witness the eclipse. In the event of the morning being cloudy, the usual parades will be carried on in the Drill Shed.'"

One of the Orderly Sergeants who exemplified the first syllable in "astronomy," wrote the following on his Detail Sheet, and placed it on the Company Notice Board: "By order of the Commanding Officer, there will be an eclipse to-morrow morning at 7.45 a.m. The company will parade at 7.30 on the Battalion parade ground in order to witness the eclipse. In the event of the morning being foggy or cloudy, the eclipse will be carried out in the Drill Shed."

"LARRY."



## 12th INFANTRY BATT., TEMPLEMORE.

By the time these notes appear in "An t-Oglach," the approach of Christmas should be noticeable in Barracks. We are already looking forward to an even more enjoyable Christmas than last year.

On his return from the Eternal City, after the Pilgrimage, the Rev. Father Maher brought with him, amongst other religious emblems, a beautiful picture from the Holy Father, entitled "The Apostolic Blessing and Plenary Indulgence at the Hour of Death." The picture bore the inscription: "For Commandant and Mrs. Walsh, and the N.C.O.'s and men of the Twelfth Battalion." The gift is keenly appreciated. Since we have first made his acquaintance, Father Maher has shown the greatest solicitude for the troops.

The Boxing Tournament held a short time ago in the Garrison Gymnasium Hall, was a great success. Sergt. Tobin and Pte. Doyle showed to advantage. We missed our old friend, Sergt. Paddy Dwyer. (A report of the Tournament appears in our sporting pages.—Ed.)

The League hurling matches which are being organised throughout the country for the preservation of the G.A.A. supply a long-felt want.

Several members of our Garrison are scheduled to play in forthcoming contests in Co. Tipperary.

Amongst the latest attractions in Barracks is a wireless loud-speaker.

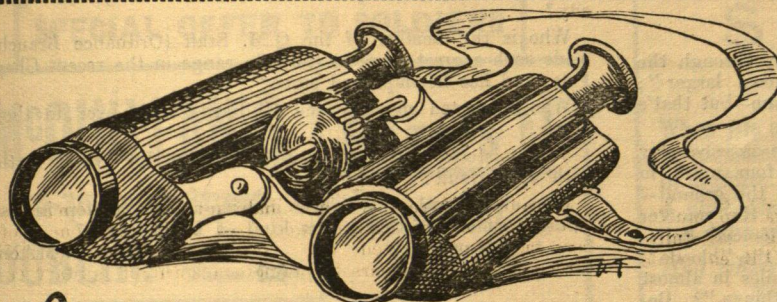
Very successful and well-patronised whist drives are being conducted fortnightly in Barracks.

We are looking forward to a great boom in the fine old game of handball.

Corporal X., of "D" Company, is responsible for the following: "They say fish is great for the brain, but I think some of ye fellows would want to eat a whale." (Tell the Corporal this joke has been traced back to the Phoenicians.—Ed.)

The same authority informs us that the "dangerous space" is the space between the archway and the ground.





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### OUR TINTOWN THRILLER.

The month was November. The sun looked sickly through the fog on the Brownstown side. In fog "objects loom larger"; "ranges are underestimated," etc., etc. (as per Keane—but that's digressing).

Private M. held his usual place at the head of the cross-country run. Conditions were gruelling even for him—four miles in "gym" slippers—the previous night's frost still on the ground—the blinding, choking fog heavy over all. Of late, the younger bloods had pressed him sorely. . . . But there loomed Ballysax Hill, the first points. His special effort to show the "bloods" once and for all had surprised even himself—two miles in almost as many minutes (!) What! Was he "seeing things"? Before his startled eyes the landscape had moved—actually moved! The fog, growing thicker, seemed to be blown in his face by a gale. Now part of the landscape seemed to be detaching itself from the remainder and hastening towards him. In his utter amazement two pursuers overtook and passed him. Then: "Here's your chit Mac. Keep moving."

It was only Sergt. Troy after all.

A look of infinite patience and resignation, such as invariably distinguishes the features of all having their habitat in Tintown, must have sat on the countenance of Job of old. But we ask ourselves (and you, kind reader) if even Job, in all his torments, was called on to endure the agony of a dozen embryo buglers dining their daily individual crescendoes within earshot. We trow not.

Not even the cats seem immune from the general strain imposed on existence hereabouts. They lately move with a suspicious and hostile air, tails at half-cock, as it were. There may be some truth in the rumour that Tintown is "going to the dogs."

Our storeman wore a glad smile on the eve of his departure to the West. Same on promotion, we are glad to hear. Our congratulations and best wishes for the future. We trust the little tin huts in the West (they have a few there) will serve as an occasional reminder of those in the Midlands.

The recent physical training course at the Curragh was a great success for the A.C.C. boys. S.M. Dugan must feel pleased with pupils from the corps. The Maher, Dowling, Reilly, and Lamb combination takes some beating.

Our old friend's (C.Q.M.S. Egan) contribution is still awaited. Hurry up, Frank!

"TIN LIZZIE."

## 27th INFANTRY BATT., HIBERNIAN SCHOOLS.

Now that the final additions have been made to the Billiard Room, what about that long promised Billiard Handicap? Would-be champions have had quite enough time to practise. It is presumed that Cpl. J—— and J. J. W. will lend the table for the occasion.

A very enjoyable amusement in the way of weekly whist drives has been provided. These have proved successful up to the present, and it is proposed to hold whist drives twice weekly in the near future.

With the Billiard Table, the weekly whist drives and the library, which is very well stocked with books, there is every attraction for soldiers to remain in Barracks instead of going out on local leave.

The outdoor games seem to have been neglected recently. What about starting a cross-country team? There is plenty of material here to make a first-class team. What about a Brigade Championship for the 7th Brig. Area? I would suggest that a Company Championship be run off; this would stimulate interest. Also what about a handball and boxing tournament? The Gymnasium will soon be cleared and is very suitable for staging a boxing tournament.

Why don't the Sergeants follow the example given them by the Officers, who now hold whist drives every Wednesday night in the Officers' Mess.

What has happened to the Dramatic Class? It is "very backward in coming forward." I assure them they have nothing to fear.

Is it true that since the monetary value of the Elementary Tests has been made known, numerous soldiers of the 27th Battalion have

been observed practising at the various rifle ranges throughout the city?

Who is the member of the Q.M. Staff (Ordnance Branch) who made such a great score at the rifle range in the recent Chapelizod Fete, and has he improved since?

Who suggested moving the Billiard table over to the Q.M. Stores?

Who mistook a Fire extinguisher for a Hot Water bottle, and with what result?

Who ever heard of a soldier getting a pass to stop in Barracks at night time? Is this a new kind of Local Leave?

MANNA.



## "SCRAPS" FROM GORMANSTON.

The return match between the G.H.Q. billiard team and the M.T. Depot was played here on the 2nd inst., and resulted in a win for the G.H.Q. men by 142 points. Our only consolation lies in the fact that we managed to reduce the number of points by which they won at the previous tournament, and a very pleasant sing-song terminated an excellent entertainment. Though defeated, we are happy in the belief that we won our visitors' good wishes. 'Tis hoped that our next meeting will not be long delayed.

\* \* \* \*

A very enjoyable whist drive was held in the recreation room on Wednesday evening, 26th November, thanks to Sergt. Madden, who rectified "the light that failed." The prizes were won by the following:—1st, Sergt. M. Gahan, M.T.D.; 2nd, Pte. Fitzsimons, 13th Batt.; 3rd, Pte. O'Brien, 13th Batt.; Pte.'s Doyle and Heady, 13th Batt., divided the booby prize.

\* \* \* \*

It is contemplated running a smoking concert before Christmas, when the prizes for the winners of the billiard handicap will be presented along with the prizes for the ring competition. Our "Larks" are advised to start "Gargling" at once in preparation for the big burst. What's yours?

\* \* \* \*

Congratulations to Capt. Tuke on his win in the Armstrong Cup. Gormanston is coming on—let's hope the tow-rope doesn't break. What about holding a chess tournament in the camp?

\* \* \* \*

A pleasant little ceremony took place on the 1st inst. in the O.C.'s office, when the Commanding Officer, Capt. Lawless, presented to Pte. Whelan the gold medal which Whelan won in the All-Army Handball Championships.

\* \* \* \*

The O.C. is very anxious to see the boxers getting into their stride, and judging by recent events in the camp, we seem to have quite a number of men who have the necessary "science," and only need a little "polish" to make them right for the ring.

\* \* \* \*

Did Joe mean it when he said that he was "due a wet" after the "duet"?

\* \* \* \*

There is a possibility of a "Minstrel Troupe" coming to the camp in the near future. The "darkies" show would undoubtedly "brighten" us up.

\* \* \* \*

The N.C.O.'s recreation room was formally opened on Monday, 30th November, by the O.C., who expressed his appreciation of the splendid work which had been done by the Committee during the short period they had been in office.

\* \* \* \*

The pictures are still going strong, though the loss of Pte. X., who refuses to patronise them, is keenly felt.

\* \* \* \*

There has been many inquiries as to where Pte. Moran managed to "bag" the pipes on which he performed so well at the pictures lately.

\* \* \* \*

It has been suggested that if the G.H.Q. scribe would change his pseudonym to "Me barked," it would be more appropriate.

\* \* \* \*

Inquiries are invited from billiard teams who are within reasonable distance and would be willing to meet the M.T. Depot. Arrangements can be made through the Secretary, Cpl. H. Maguire.



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### Proficiency Pay.

"Tee Hee" (Griffiths Barracks, Dublin).—The question of issue of additional pay to tradesmen of the Army Corps of Engineers, situated as you are, is still under consideration. No decision has as yet been promulgated.

"Victim" (Athlone).—You should refer the matter to your Commanding Officer, who will take the matter up with the Officer i/c Records, with a view of securing the necessary verification to enable him to publish the appointment to Class II. Private in Battalion Orders. The publication through Orders automatically carries the pay of the appointment.

"Worried" (Curragh Camp).—Your appointment does not warrant payment of additional pay under the terms of the existing regulations, which confine such issues to Technical Storemen.

### Back Pay.

"Wanted" (Collins Barracks, Cork).—Write to the Officer i/c of Arrears of Pay Department, Portobello Barracks, Dublin, giving your Army number, home address and address from which claim was sent.

"Mack" (Curragh Camp).—The facts of your case as stated in your letter, should be submitted to the Brigade Pay Officer, who is in a position to verify the particulars of the payments issued. Should his investigation prove that you have been underpaid, he is empowered to effect any adjustment necessary.

### Leave.

"Furlough" (Naas).—Soldiers are not allowed to enter the Six Counties or Great Britain in uniform, while on leave.

### Discharge.

"Curious" (Finner Camp).—Apply to your Commanding Officer for discharge on compassionate grounds.

### Grade Pay.

"Puzzled" (Tralee).—Refer the matter to your Commanding Officer. The question of appointments to Class I. Private is a matter for the discretion of the Adjutant-General. The governing date for payment in such cases is invariably the date from which the appointment is ratified as appearing in Orders.

### Rations.

"An Old Volunteer" (Dundalk).—If you think you have a grievance as to how rations should be obtained you should take the matter up with your Commanding Officer. Married men accommodated with quarters in Barracks are not entitled to Ration Allowance in lieu of rations.

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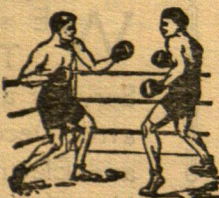
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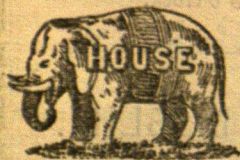
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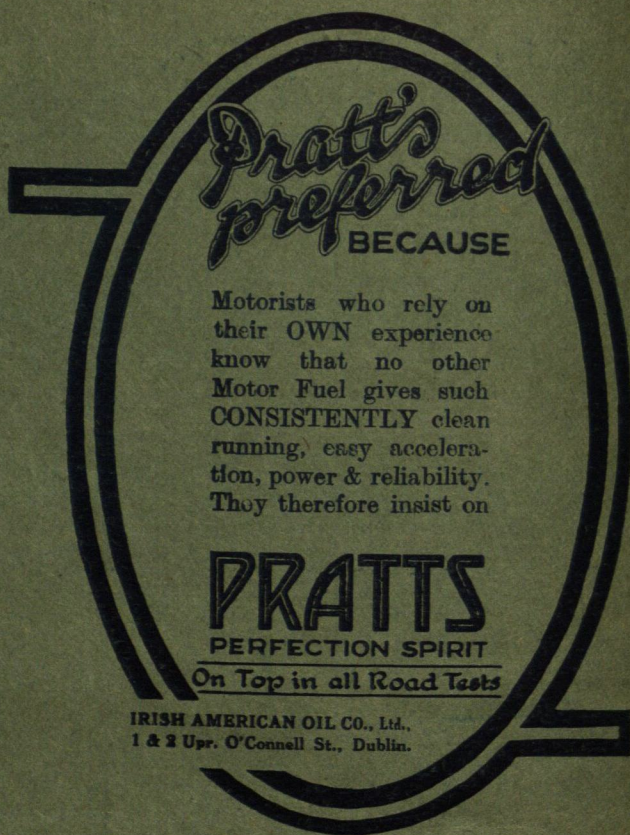
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