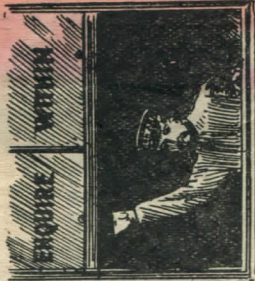


OUR QUESTION BOX



Quartermaster D. Malcolm, of Whangarei (N.Z.), asks: "What are Quartermaster's stripes? How worn? What do they cost? Where can they be obtained?"

[The position of Quartermaster is a new one, so far as the Australasian territory is concerned, and we do not think that the question of the uniform of badges to be worn has yet been fully considered. However, for the time being the Quartermaster's stripes are to be the same as those of an ordinary sergeant.—Ed. L.O.]

"Tarty" writes:—"There seems to be a good deal of confusion as to how badges ought to be worn. Some time ago I visited a corps where there were three Sergeants-Major. One had his stripes on the right arm, just above the elbow, point downwards. They told me he was the Senior Corps S.M. The next had his stripes on the left arm, above the elbow. He was the J.S.S.M. The third wore his stripes point upwards, just above the wrist. He turned out to be the Converts' S.M. At another place to which I went the corps' S.M. had his stripes on the right arm, just above the wrist, point down. The J.S.S.M. wore his on the left, above the elbow. In other places where I have been things have been just as much confused. Sergeants wear their badges—some on the right and others on the left arm. Some I have seen wearing the red braid through the middle of the collar, others on the top, and others, again, on the bottom.

"Should Secretaries and Treasurers wear blue braid on collar and cap (two rows) or only one row on each? Is it regulation for all L.O.'s to wear shoulder straps?"

"I think our bands, too, should have a regulation uniform. I notice there are several styles in this State."

[We are glad to receive enquiries from our comrades, so long as they are made in a good spirit, and will do our best to furnish an authoritative answer to the above question in our next issue.—Editor L.O.]

KEEP BELIEVING.

Defeat cannot happen in the kingdom we serve; if it ever could have happened, the cross on the grave furnished the critical moment. It did not happen then; apparent defeat proved to be radiant victory. It cannot happen in the future. Be of good courage, fight the demon of pessimism; depression of spirit is an enemy to gifts and grace, and a great ally of unbelief—"that little pitted speck in garnered fruit, which, rotting inwardly, slowly moulders all."

There was great rejoicing recently in the home of the Wallsend (N.S.W.) Treasurer. It was caused by his wife getting saved at a cottage-meeting held there.

the Bandmaster, W. F. Palmer, whose heart and soul are in the band. He is a staunch believer in punctuality, and attends up to time, both the open-air and inside meetings. The officers are always able to rely upon the Bandmaster being at his post. He is a sterling musician, and loyal to the principles of the Army. He was converted in the Army eight years ago, and has been Bandmaster for three years, and has been re-commissioned for another term.

George Irvine is our 2nd cornet player, and was also recruited from the junior ranks. He has a good deal of latent ability. He is a Corps Cadet, and, as he develops, will make a useful officer. He has been connected with the band for three years.

Captain Dunkley, who, at the time the photograph was taken, was in charge of the corps, was converted seven years ago, and has spent the past

THE OMAVA

Five years as an officer. He played 2nd baritone. Frank Hays is the 4th baritone player, and is also the Secretary of the corps. He is a constant knee-driller, a godly, punctual, reliable lad, and a joy to his officers, among whom he has no favourites. He has recently taken unto himself a wife. He was converted nine years ago, and has been playing in the band four years.

John Irvine was converted six years ago in the Army. He plays 1st cornet, and is a good, strong player, with a lip like leather. He is our Band Secretary, and will make a good lad. He is also a violinist, and plays in the meetings.

The lads can, when required, turn themselves into a string band, and their playing, at the time of writing, was exceedingly useful in the prayer-meetings. They can also sing a good company song, and, like good horses, can run in any kind of harness. With

one exception, this band is—under Divine direction—entirely the creation of the Salvation Army, nine out of the ten players having been converted through its instrumentality. As musicians they are in the front rank, and are also good Salvationists.

ONE WHO KNOWS THEM.

PRAYING IN A STABLE.

During the riots in Eastbourne (England), which are matters of Salvation Army history, four young men became soldiers, and formed a praying band, going several nights a week to a meadow, where, round the trunk of a large tree, they used to pray together. Sometimes they went for the same purpose to a stable, of which one young man had the key. One of the number is now Convert-Sergeant of the corps (Brother David Hollands); another is Bandmaster (Brother John Horsman); a third is Brother Warren (a soldier) and the fourth Captain Fenoulhet, Wandsworth. The Eastbourne Band visited Wandsworth recently, when, to illustrate the power of prayer, this story was told by Brother Hollands, after which the Captain, Convert-Sergeant, and Bandmaster sang together, "I'll be True, Lord, to Thee."

Deputy-Bandmaster Pratt, of Gympie I. (Qld.), is a painter and sign writer. His power in this direction is gratuitously given to the corps, for announcements, etc.

The duties of Band-lassie M. Creighton (Gympie I.), are multifarious. She has to attend to the band, the juniors, the literature, the singing company, and open-air collecting; still she keeps smiling and pepping away.

WORTHY BANDS.

Bandmasters and bandmen to say nothing of hundreds of genuine musical enthusiasts of Australasia, will be deeply interested in the pages allotted to old and new, which are uniformed and run on regular lines—which we trust is the case with every one in the Territory—will take a practical interest in this part of our paper. Photos and descriptions of bands will appear in rotation as they arrive. Address "Bands," c/o Editor Local Officer, Bourke-street, Melbourne."

No. XV. The Oamaru Band.

The Oamaru Brass Band, as shown in the photograph, is the remnant of the once famous Oamaru Salvation Army band. If a full record were given, many would probably be surprised to learn that some of the most prominent brass instrumentalists in New Zealand received their early musical training in this band. This is the home of the Jacksons, George, who is now in glory, and Ebbe, now Staff-Captain Jackson, in Australia, were both, in the early days, connected with this band. Their names are still affectionately remembered here.

The present lads, whose names are given below, are thorough Salvationists and splendid musicians.

Back row, from left to right.

Charles Gray plays 1st tenor; was converted as a junior, and has been playing in the band a little over four years. He is a sterling lad, quiet, but very reliable. He rarely misses a meeting, but starts at knee-drill on Sunday

morning, and goes right through to Saturday night.

George White, who plays the Bb bass, was converted in the Army seventeen years ago, and has been fighting in the ranks ever since. He is a trophy of God's power, and wields a good influence in the town, where he is in business. He has been playing in the band for fifteen years.

John Tonkin, sent to the Oamaru Salvation Army, in June 10, 1884, also through the band. He is unable to get out often, because of the distance he lives from the barracks. He has been connected with the band for seventeen years, and is a complete answer to the question: "Do your converts stand?" He has played various instruments, but is now our drummer.

James Anderson comes of a good Salvation Army family, and hails from Danevirke. He is the J.S.M., and a Great favourite with the children,

for whom he will take any amount of trouble. He is also an artist of no mean ability, and brings a fine tone from the Eb bass.

John Tonkin, junr., is our euphonium player, and he also was converted as a junior. He is following in the footsteps of his father, and has been playing in the band for nine years.

Front row, from left to right. The young man holding the baton is



LOCAL OFFICER, Oct. 1, 1903.]

THE OAMARU (N.Z.) BAND.