

Dated Feb 29 1916

MUSIC AND HEROISM.

PRESENTATION TO PIPER LAIDLAW, V.C.

A concert given yesterday at the Mansion House by the Musicians' Company to wounded soldiers from the Dominions under treatment in the various London Hospitals was made the occasion for the presentation by the Company of a gold watch to Piper Daniel Laidlaw, V.C., 7th King's Own Scottish Borderers, the hero of Loos, in recognition of his heroism on the 25th of last year. It will be recalled that during the height of the bombardment by the enemy, when our attack was about to begin, Piper Laidlaw, seeing that his company was somewhat shaken by the effects of asphyxiating gas, with absolute coolness and disregard of danger, mounted the parapet, marched up and down, and played his company out of the trench. The effect of his heroic example was immediate, and the company dashed out to the assault, while the piper continued to play till he was wounded.

The Lord Mayor, who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, presided, and the Musicians' Company was represented by the Master, Mr. C. L. Collard; the Senior Warden, Sir George Wyatt Truscott; the Junior Warden, Mr. Alexander Burnett Brown; Sir Frederick Bridge, Sir Homewood Crawford, and Dr. Thomas Lea Southgate, past Masters; ex-Sheriff Cart de Lafontaine, member of the Court of Assistants; and Mr. T. C. Fenwick, clerk. Piper Laidlaw was played into the Egyptian Hall by the pipers of the Lord Mayor's Recruiting Bands amid resounding cheers, and was introduced to the Chief Magistrate by the Master of the Company, who remarked that the gallant Scottish Borderer was the fourth musician to receive the Victoria Cross during the present war. Sir Charles Wakefield, in handing the watch to the piper, said it caused their blood to course more quickly through their veins when they read of the deeds which had deservedly won the Cross at Loos. Such heroism was a stimulus to the people of the City of London and throughout the entire country to try to do their duty in their own sphere of life as it had been so nobly done at Loos. Piper Laidlaw, in acknowledging the gift, observed that a good many people in this country seemed to think that there was no music in the pipes. He was glad to learn on this, his first visit to London, that the Musicians' Company thought differently. (Cheers and laughter.) He was very glad to have gained the Cross, but if it had not been for the splendid work done by his regiment he doubted very much whether he would have won it. By general request he then played the same march that he played on the parapet of his trench, and was vociferously applauded.

At the concert the band of the Grenadier Guards conducted by Lieutenant Williams, who is a liveryman of the Musicians' Company, gave a selection of military music; Miss Phyllis Lett, Mr. Alfred Heather and Mr. Lloyd Chandos sang; Miss Daisy Kenned played two violin solos; and Mrs. Frank Hodson was at the piano. During a short interval the soldiers were entertained at tea as guests of the Lord Mayor.

Another batch of recruits leaving which yesterday for their training quarters. As their head is marching a... of need.



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WEDNESDAY, M

5/- FINEST STOCK MAKERS TO

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AND NGE. 24, 25, 26, (BELOW 80) RS.

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