

FORMED 180TH BATTALION

The Toronto organization was asked to organize the 180th Overseas Battalion, which was done and given the name of the Sportsman's Battalion, to which many famous athletes were attached, both as officers and non-commissioned officers and men, and after a short training of eight months, arrived in England, where it was recognized as one of the best of our Canadian battalions and was subsequently broken up for drafts as reinforcements for the Front.

On the departure of Lieut.-Col. R. H. Greer and Capt. T. C. Flanagan overseas with the battalion in 1916, the duties of the organization were taken over by the Sportsman's Patriotic Association, which was incorporated under the original name, and many of the well-known newspaper men of Toronto are interested in it. Mr. Patrick J. Mulqueen is president, and the executive is composed of such men as Frank Nelson, of the "Globe;" W. J. Hewitt, of the "Star;" Mr. J. Shea, of Shea's Theatre, and James Norris.

XMAS CHEER

The "Christmas Tree" entertainments given each year in Toronto for the wives, mothers, and children of the "soldiers overseas," under the auspices of the Sportsman's Patriotic Association, constitute a form of war-time cheer worthy of much praise. The events are held in Massey Hall. During the Christmas holiday season just past about 30,000 gifts from "Santa Claus" were placed in the hands of the children of the fighting men overseas. The gifts cost nearly \$7,000.

THREE TORONTO V.C.'S

THREE Torontonians have won the V.C. The first Victoria Cross was won by Sergt. Frederick Hobson. This hero did not survive the wounds received at the time he performed the valorous deed for which he gained the coveted award.

SECOND AWARD

The second was won by Corp. Colin Barron, 23-year-old teamster, who went overseas, after only two months' training, in 1915. He came from Banffshire, Scotland, and was only in Toronto three years when he enlisted with Lt.-Col. McCordick's Battalion. He was absolutely without any military experience, and after two months' training at the Exhibition Camp, went overseas in June, 1915. For two years he has been constantly on the firing-line and has escaped injury. His father, Joseph Barron, lives in Scotland.