

THE CIVILIAN

VOL. VIII.

MARCH 31, 1916.

No. 25

The 207th Regiment.

When the necessary authority was given for the formation of the 207th Battalion, C.E.F., the idea at once presented itself that here was the regiment in which might be enrolled at least one company from the unmarried members of the Civil Service in Ottawa. How best to arrange this matter was a problem requiring careful consideration. In the person of the "second in command," Major Bell, himself a civil servant, from the Department of Railways and Canals, there was a man quite in touch with many of the phases of a civil servant's life that are altogether too little known to the public generally.

The Officer Commanding, Lieut.-Col. MacLean, and his other officers grasped the situation, and it is very evident have sought to make the way very easy for the young men of the Public Service of Canada, here in Ottawa, who has not already donned the khaki, to get in line. Going to the very head of things, the Prime Minister was approached with idea of obtaining his approval of the proposition. On March 10th, Sir Robert Borden wrote to Colonel MacLean as follows:



Ottawa, Ont. March 10th, 1916

Dear Colonel MacLean,-

I am writing to express my personal best wishes for the success of your recruiting campaign of the 207th Battalion. I understand that it is your wish to bring the claims of the 207th Battalion to the attention of members of the public service in Ottawa, but within the limits of the requirements of the various Departments. I am confident that your appeal will meet with the support which it so well deserves.

Yours faithfully,

Lt. Col. Charles MacLean,
C. C. 207th Battalion,
Cor Metcalfe & Albert Sts.

O t t a w a.

R. B. Borden