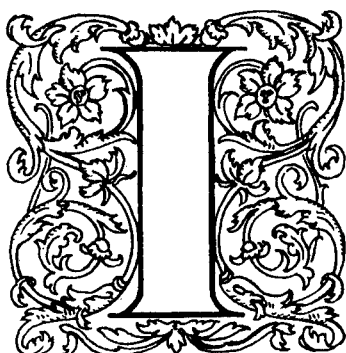


Mc GILL AND THE WAR



It is practically certain that no class of Canadian citizens responded more readily, or in greater numbers, to the call of duty during the four eventful years (1914-18), when the greatest war in the history of the world called for the sternest service which man can render, than did the eligible graduates and undergraduates of our higher seats of learning. Whilst it may be said that there were special reasons for this result, it is nevertheless safe to conclude that the main cause was the high and compelling sense of duty which is developed by a broad and generous education. Those connected with McGill University did their full share in this respect.

THE McGill Officers' Training Corps, the first of those contingents which now form the Canadian Officers' Training Corps, had been formed in the year 1912, and it was without doubt partly due to the existence of this organization that there was so little delay in commencing military activities within the University in the autumn of 1914.

As soon as practicable after the outbreak of war the Graduates' Society decided to organize a "provisional battalion," and a skeleton cadre was at once formed in which intensive instruction was carried on, the campus being used for drill. Thus when the term began and the undergraduates commenced to enlist, enough junior officers and non-commissioned officers to complete its establishment were available from the ranks of the graduates who had received the benefit of these two months' training.

AFTER consultation with the University and those interested, the Militia Department decided that the best policy for the time being at any rate would be to authorize the enlargement of the Officers' Training Corps and absorb into it the whole of the "provisional battalion." This was forthwith carried out and the Officers' Training Corps was thus enlarged to a strength of 600 or 700, all ranks.