D546.5 196th W2 fol.

PRESIDENT MURRAY
Of the University of Saskatchewan, Secretary

Good Advice

The formation of the Western Universities Battalion was a unique event in the military history of Canada. Though many university students and men had enlisted in various battalions and contingents, no battalion has proceeded overseas as a distinct university unit. In the manner of its enlistment, too, a precedent has been set. Have we as a battalion recognized and accepted the responsibilities resting upon us? Recruited from four provinces, provinces which being comparatively new, are most in need of men possessing character and energy, this battalion should represent the Canada of the future, for it is the university men of any country who should guide its destinies and establish the foundations of national character. We, as university men, will be called upon to settle Canada's problems after the turmoil and strife have given place to peace. Are we prepared to accept the task? No one can pass through these crucial times without having his character seriously affected either for better or worse. When hell is let loose on earth, and all the evil passions of man given free scope for their destructive tendencies, moral character is then in the balance. Let us not be weighed and found wanting. As men of education, who realize the necessities of the hour, let us profit by the experiences of the war so that we shall be ready at the close of hostilities to grasp the situation with a firm hand and crush tyranny and oppression wherever it may arise. It has been said that sorrow is the blacksmith of life; good metal is strengthened by the fire, but weak metal breaks under the test. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Deep Stuff

Sergeant—What on earth do you fellows find to write home about?

Private—Why, we "Right about

THE COMMITTEE OF ORGANIZATION



PRESIDENT MACLEAN
Of the University of Manitoba



PRESIDENT WESBROOK
Of the University of British Columbia



PRESIDENT TORY
Of the University of Alberta, Chairman

The Brandon Auxiliary

Early in July the ladies of Brandon interested in the boys of the Brandon platoon organized an auxiliary for the purpose of helping the Brandon boys both while the latter were in camp and after they proceed overseas.

The work of the above organization has indeed been appreciated. Early in August a very enjoyable concert was given by several Brandon artists. The same was followed by a social evening for the platoon. A weekly budget of magazines has been furnished by the Brandon organization, and we have been informed of late that the members have raised money sufficient to purchase wool for the busy knitters of the society.

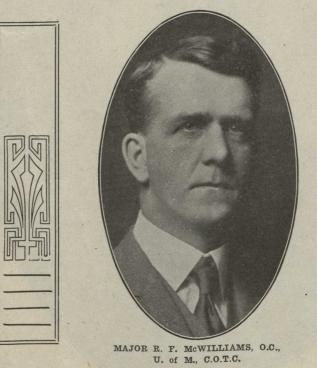
On Friday evening, October 6, the Brandon Auxiliary in conjunction with the Faculty of Brandon College entertained the boys by way of a farewell reception held in the ladies' residence of the college.

We are glad to know that the organization's work is not to discontinue when the boys go overseas. We feel confident in saying that when the boys are far from home and alma mater, they will be frequently reminded that there are workers left behind.

The following constitute the executive of the Brandon Auxiliary:

Hon. pres., Mrs. H. P. Whidden; pres., Mrs. W. L. Wright; 1st vice-pres., Mrs. Hogarth; 2nd vice-pres., Mrs. S. J. McKee; secretary, Mrs. R. A. Cunningham; treasurer, Mrs. Maharg; convener of work committee, Mrs. Grantham; convener of membership, Mrs. McPherson; convener of entertainment committee, Mrs. K. Campbell; convener of relief committee, Mrs. Pugh; convener of literature committee, Miss Ella Smale.

"Some men have sluices in their consciences, which they open and shut at will." This is especially applicable to the canteen vendors.



History of the 196th Battalion

(Continued from Page One)

University of Alberta (president); President Murray, of the University of Saskatchewan (secretary); and President Wesbrook, of the University of British Columbia; President MacLean, of the University of Manitoba; Major R. F. McWilliams, of the Manitoba C.O.T.C.; and Dr. Halpenny, representing the Medical Faculty of Manitoba University, were appointed to proceed to Ottawa to lay the matter before the Honorable the Minister of Militia, General Sir Sam Hughes, K.C.B.

On January 25th, 1916, the committee waited upon the Minister of Militia, who cordially approved of the plan, authorizing the committee to organize the 196th Overseas Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Forces, Western Universities, and the 11th Field Ambulance, and leaving the organization and selection of officers entirely in the hands of the committee.

The committee of organization met in Winnipeg on February 7th and decided that the Universities of Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia should recruit one company each, the University of Saskatchewan three platoons, and Brandon College one platoon of the remaining company. The selection of officers for the companies was left in the hands of the universities concerned.

For the Headquarters Staff the committee agreed to recommend the following officers:

Officer Commanding—Major D. S. MacKay, Second in Command, 27th Overseas Battalion, C.E.F.

Second in Command—Major R. W. Brock, 72nd Overseas Battalion, C.E.F., Seaforth Highlanders.

(Continued on Page Three)