

# THE CIVILIAN

VOL. X.

JULY 6, 1917.

No. 6

## OFF FOR THE FRONT

### Civil Service Artillery Draft Leaves Ottawa.

Somewhere East of Ottawa, the Civil Service Siege and Heavy Artillery Draft is on its way to the front.

The unit left Ottawa on Wednesday evening, June 20th. Its departure was an event of no small importance in Canadian Civil Service annals and not without note in the records of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Though approximately four thousand men of the Canadian Public Service have left their homes for the scene of war during the last three years, this was the first instance of the departure of a unit bearing the Civil Service name.

March was passing when Lieut. John MacCormac got the organization of the draft under way. His proposition to raise a unit from the Civil Service was openly discouraged by some members of the Service itself, for they feared that the attempt would end in failure. However, this movement had another sort of origin from those of earlier dates that were unsuccessful, and, though the steady enrollment of civil servants in other units was not interfered with, the Draft was filled up, partly trained, and on its way to the front within three months.

*The Civilian* used its best endeavours in aid of the Draft,—to what effect let the following letter from the Commanding Officer, written when the unit was at an Eastern point, testify:

June 24th, 1917.

The Editors,  
*The Civilian*,  
Ottawa.

Dear Sirs,—

Before the Civil Service Siege and Heavy Draft leaves for other shores, as we expect will be the case very soon, on behalf of Lieut. Glasmaher, my fellow officer, the Draft and myself, I wish to thank *The Civilian* for the very material assistance it has given us since the inception of our unit.

It is not too much to say that the success met with in raising this Draft could not have been attained without the co-operation of *The Civilian* and the Civil Service Association. Nearly all our recruits from the Outside Service were obtained directly through the medium of your magazine, and its influence in the Inside Service was great.

In conclusion, permit me to thank you personally for the crispness and pungency of your press notices in encouragement of our efforts. They could not have been better done. We remain,

Gratefully yours,  
CIVIL SERVICE SIEGE AND HEAVY DRAFT,  
(Sgd.) per John MacCormac (Lt.) O.C.

It was the first duty of the officers of the Draft to get it up to strength, and, consequently, when a prime recruit offered himself he was taken on, whether he was a civil servant or not. The high standard of the unit made it very attractive to men from outside the Service and many offered them-