

FIVE FIREMEN OFFER TO FIGHT NOT TO GUARD INTERNED ALIENS

**Almost Half of Brandon
Fire Dept. Members are
Ready for Service**

**PHYSICALLY FIT;
ANXIOUS TO GO**

**May Go to Britain to Enlist
If Necessary to Get to
the Front**

Practically half the members of the Brandon fire department are going to the front. The men have responded to appeals for recruits and have decided to offer themselves for service. They make one stipulation: That is that they will not be held here to guard prisoners of war. Every one of the five who have already passed the medical examination are in the best of physical condition and eager to get in the firing line. These men are Thos. Calder, Thomas Dunnett, Dan McDonald, William Esslemont and George Hain. Hain is on his holidays but will join his chums in a few days. The other single men of the department will undergo medical examination and, if pronounced fit, will "beat it" for the recruiting office. One of them, George Williamson, cannot pass the medical test, but his offer is none the less appreciated. Chief Melhuish de-

clared today that the men will be very hard to replace.

Married Men Eager

The married men of the department have also caught the spirit of patriotism and want to go. Several of them have seen service in the King's uniforms, but somehow or other they cannot persuade their better halves to sign their attestation paper. They have resolved to do an extra pull when the single men go, a thing which will be a very great necessity. For many years the Brandon fire department has had the reputation of being among the first rank in the entire Dominion and those qualified to know have repeatedly stated that they have no superiors and few equals when their numerical strength is considered. This reputation has been gained only by a spirit of loyalty and co-operation on the part of all.

All Excellent Men

Chief Melhuish states that every man now on the staff is a good firefighter. With the cutting down in numbers, the lowest in the severe efficiency tests, have had to be sacrificed and this has increased the average of efficiency of the force on a percentage basis, though not at fires. Calder has been with the brigade since Chief Melhuish assumed command six years ago. The others are also of

several years experience, and three of them are experts at handling an auto. One is the man who runs the big truck and two others run the smaller cars, including the chief's. "BET" Esslemont, son of Chief of Police Esslemont, is one of the bravest Scotchmen in Manitoba, and like the others, wanted to go earlier.

Chief in Quandary

Chief Melhuish is in a quandry. He is more proud of his men than ever, but when saying so he ruefully scratched his head and said, "But the worst of it is how can I replace them. They have all been good about it. They have given me good notice and will not go away until I can refill their places. I am glad they feel as they do, but I wish the war had never started."

Want to be at Front

All the men want to go direct to the front after two or three months' training. They are hard as the proverbial nail and all of them has handled a rifle. Failing their being signed up here they will go to Winnipeg if they cannot get on there, they will go direct to the old country.

Wm. Dingwall, now a temporary member of the city police force, is also an ex-fireman who is volunteering for the front. He was with Chief Melhuish until June first, and will go along with the other five.