

CANADA'S FIGHTING TROOPS

.. By ..

Roger Pocock

IN Canada, as at home, party politics vanished when war broke upon the world. "In Canada there was but one mind," said Sir Wilfrid Laurier, leader of the Opposition in the Parliament of the Dominion, which promptly voted a war credit of twelve million pounds. Recruiting ran like a fire, and during the first fortnight of the war a hundred thousand men offered their services. In men, in money, and in supplies, the resources of Canada were offered to the Mother Country.

Canada at once offered an Expeditionary Force, and placed cruisers and submarines at the disposal of the Admiralty. In the great rally of the Empire she swiftly took her part. The women of Canada, through the Duchess of Connaught, subscribed over £57,000 for hospital purposes.

Canada's Many Gifts

Private citizens of the Dominion quickly followed the lead of the Government. Chief among them were Mr. J. C. Eaton, of Toronto, who gave a battery of machine guns, and Mr. J. K. L. Ross, of Montreal, who contributed £100,000 for war purposes. The Bank of Montreal provided a sum of £20,000.

Many of Canada's generous gifts were of a picturesque kind. She offered to the Home Government a million bags of flour of 98 lbs. each. Nova Scotia intimated that she was sending 100,000 tons of coal. Alberta provided 500,000 bushels of oats for the use of the Imperial Army. Another gift was 4,000,000 lbs. of cheese.

The rush of recruits to the flag was so great that it had to be temporarily stemmed. Very quickly all the troops necessary for the first contingents were secured, and it was made plain that the Expeditionary Force would be supplemented whenever need arose. "Canada," as Sir Wilfrid Laurier said, "could be depended upon to respond to any call for aid that might come from Great Britain."

Those who know the Canadians know that the fighting reputation they gained in South Africa will be well upheld upon the European field of war. The things that make a good soldier are theirs by reason of their daily lives in the scattered spaces of the Dominion. They are good horsemen and good shots, and are strong in the essential qualities of initiative and self-reliance.

Among them are some of the best scouts in the world, men trained on the prairies and skilled in woodcraft. On the veldt of South Africa members of the Canadian contingents proved their value as "the eyes of the army" very many times.

The Canadian Militia, which corresponds to our Territorial Army, has a peace establishment of 74,000 men. They engage for three years.

In time of war the Viceroy of Canada has power to call up all male inhabitants between eighteen and sixty years of age. That means a possible army of perhaps two millions.

First in precedence ranks the Royal Military College of gentlemen cadets, who have their training at the old frontier for-