

herited traits from every one of these races, yet they are quite distinct from them all.

All Canadians are pioneers themselves, or are the immediate descendants of pioneers. Most of them have gained for themselves, or have inherited those indelible signs with which nature graces the bodies and souls of those who have pitted their will, their strength, and their determination against her elemental forces and have earned for themselves a portion of her riches. The life of a Canadian pioneer, be it that of a woodsman, a prospector, a hunter or a settler upon the land, calls forth and demands brains, mettle and brawn. If the rewards are, as a rule, generous, the difficulties to be overcome are many, and none but the brave, the patient, and the strong can survive them. The severities of our climate eliminate the unfit, while the incessant activities of the community either reject or correct the lazy. Thus we see in operation through various agencies, and in their moral and physical aspects, the laws of selection. The operation of those natural laws have already resulted in the creation or the segregation of a race of men approximating a particular type, with distinct moral, physical and intellectual characteristics.

The rugged strength of the Canadian is depicted in his broad shoulders, deep chest and strong, clean-cut limbs. His eyes are keen and steady, while behind the calm gravity of his mien lies a tenacious and indomitable will. These are the invaluable gifts of our deep forests and lofty mountains, of our rolling plains and our great waterways, and of the clear light of our Northern skies, gifts which have enabled the Canadian to adapt himself readily and well to the new conditions he found confronting him as a soldier. In the vigour of their bodies and the strength of their character we find the secret of their endurance to the dreadful sufferings and hardships of the earliest days of warfare, when the trenches were most primitive, and the comforts almost nil. I recall that the First Canadian division was in the line continuously for fifteen months from May, 1915, to August, 1916. And a greater demand still was made on these qualities of endurance in the last hundred days of the war when, fighting bitterly every day for every foot of ground against almost fifty German divisions, they penetrated the German defensive organizations to a depth exceeding in the