

signed to challenge conclusions with that of Great Britain. What ambitions would not be open to Germany, what tribute could she not exact, if dominating Europe with her army she could wage a successful naval campaign against Britain.

"Within the past ten years the peace of Europe has been threatened by Germany on no less than three occasions. In 1905 France, at her dictation, was obliged to dismiss her Foreign Minister. In 1909 Germany shook her mailed fist and compelled Russia to bow to her will. In 1911, as the history of the Agadir incident recalls, she again attempted to coerce and humiliate France, and the situation was saved only by the interposition of Great Britain. Germany receded on that occasion from her first pretensions, but only to abide her time, which came in 1914.

Canada's Offer Made Before War Was Declared.

"The military autocracy of Germany have taught their people for more than twenty years that the British Empire stood chiefly in the path of German expansion, and that war was inevitable. No one could predict the exact occasion which would be seized, but no one could doubt the intention of the Prussian militarists. There was the lesson of Denmark and Austria and France. In the end the storm broke suddenly, and the country was confronted with responsibilities greater than those which it had ever faced. The situation demanded action; it demanded immediate and unhesitating action beyond the authorization of the law as it then stood; it was impossible for the Government to wait, and by Order-in-Council we promulgated necessary measures in advance of the meeting of Parliament. The people of Canada loyally acquiesced in these measures, and our course has been ratified by the necessary legislative sanction. On the first of August I sent to the British Government a secret telegram announcing Canada's desire to send an expeditionary force if war should ensue. The offer was not accepted until the 6th of August, but in the meantime steps in anticipation were taken and the raising and equipment of

troops for such a force was authorized. On the 7th of August the suggested composition of the force was received from the British authorities, and was immediately sanctioned by Order-in-Council.

Valcartier Camp a Great Achievement.

Recruiting in the meantime had already commenced, and on the 6th of August the preparation of the Valcartier Camp was begun. I visited that camp four weeks from the day on which work commenced, and I am proud that we possess in Canada the ability to achieve within so limited a period all that was accomplished within that month. A rifle range comprising a line of 1,500 targets and extending more than three and a half miles was completed within about ten days. A complete water supply, with necessary piping, pumps, tanks and chlorinating plant, with about 200 taps fitted to ablation tables and seventy-five shower baths was constructed. An electric light, power and telephone system was installed. Streets were constructed, buildings and tents erected, and an effective sewerage system comprising over 28,000 feet of drain pipe was completed. Railway sidings, with necessary loading platforms, were constructed. Woods were cleared and elaborate sanitary arrangements prepared. Six large buildings for ordnance stores and for the Army Service Corps, buildings for medical stores, for pay and transport offices, hospital stables for sick horses, fumigating and other buildings were constructed and made ready for use within the same period. Thirty-five thousand men were assembled and put through a most systematic course of training in all branches of the service. Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery, Engineers, Army Service Corps, Army Medical Corps, Signallers and Ammunition columns were organized, and all were trained in their respective duties. Sixteen thousand men were trained daily in musketry. The clothing and equipment, the transport and supply for 35,000 men were a heavy undertaking, especially in the urgency of haste. It is difficult for those who did not see the camp and who have not studied all that