

PREFATORY NOTE.

In August, 1914, a deputation of University graduates called upon the Prime Minister of Canada to offer their services and to enquire in what ways men trained in the Universities might be of assistance, whether as individuals or as a body, in forwarding the measures by which the Canadian government planned to meet the situation created by the war.

The Prime Minister welcomed the deputation, and with his entire sympathy and approval it was decided that a Central Committee consisting of representatives of the Graduates' Societies of Canadian Universities should be formed. The chief aim of the endeavour thus initiated was to assist in maintaining a stable and well-informed public opinion in Canada, and to ensure a sound understanding and quick co-operation between Canadians and their leaders. Hence it was determined to issue to all University graduates living in Canada a series of statements approved by the Prime Minister and based upon accurate information. Since University graduates are, as a whole, the best educated men in Canada, it was felt that from them opinions would spread quickly, and certainly, to those about them. Above all, it was thought imperative to give every Canadian an accurate idea of why Canada is at war, thereby enforcing a determination to win a victorious peace for this age and posterity.

The purpose thus sketched has not as yet been carried out in its entirety, owing to the duties which were thrust by the war itself upon those most actively concerned in the initiation of this plan, and upon the leading University men everywhere. Meanwhile, however, an active correspondence has disclosed the fact that there exists a distinct desire among the graduates of Canadian Universities to unite for public service. It is hoped and expected that during the course of the next academic session this impulse will assume a positive, concrete form through the organization of a thoroughly representative Central Committee, which will prepare and distribute literature of the character already indicated.

As a first step, the Graduates' Society of McGill University issued, last autumn, a pamphlet entitled "The War, its cause and problems," which was sent to the Alumni, and is thought to have served a useful purpose. But, notwithstanding all that has since appeared in the Public Press, and in a great mass of other publications, it would seem that there are still graduates who would be glad of a re-statement of certain cardinal facts in regard to the war. This second pamphlet has, therefore, been prepared, and is now circulated among the graduates of McGill University. It