

THE DOMINION AT WAR

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THE Canadian armies have now been taking their part in the battles of the Empire for two years. They have won for themselves, for the Dominion which sent them, for the Motherland in whose just cause they sprang to arms, immortal renown. With the glorious Australians, New Zealanders, and other Overseas forces, they have done what, in the long annals of civilised nations, no colonial peoples ever did before.

Colonisation is older than history, but in all its story there is no record like that of the British Empire and of the spirit that unites its far-separated communities. Mother States in the past have oppressed and warred against daughter States, treated them as vassals, drained and exhausted them, and eventually every link of connection was severed; but each decade brings the parts of the British Empire more closely together.

Canada has taken part in many wars, but never except from motives of loyalty and self-preservation. For more than half a century after the battle of Quebec established British rule in the vast lands that lie between the St. Lawrence, the Great Lakes, and the Arctic Sea, British soldiers, often whole regiments when disbanded, found permanent homes in Canada, and their descendants have ever been the first to unsheathe the sword in defence of their rights. They formed the flower of the British forces that served in the frontier war with the United States in 1812; they repelled invasion during the

Fenian raids; they helped to garrison British fortresses in the Indian Mutiny; they were present, 7,000 strong, in South Africa, and did yeoman service in the Imperial cause. But great and notable in their day as these services were, they, like all other episodes in military history, are paled and dwarfed by what Canada has done and is now doing in the present war.

In the past Canada sent contingents; in 1914 Canada went to war as a nation. From the Pacific to the Atlantic, every citizen of the Dominion had but one thought: "If Britain is at war, Canada is at war." Canada made the quarrel her own, and had the whole of the armed might of Germany been hurled at her alone, she could not more unreservedly have applied all her energies and resources, man power and material power, to the work of resistance and defence.

The leadership of the young nation in arms was in the hands of Sir Robert L. Borden. How splendidly has the Dominion Premier filled his great office! Under his loyal, firm, unhesitating control, the transformation of Canada into camp and arsenal has been a miracle of smooth, continuous development, adaptation, and



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expansion of which we have every reason to be proud. Canada's burning patriotism, quivering with the energy of young nationhood, and under the inspiring guidance of Sir Robert Borden, has done its utmost to assist in this great war, believing that in fighting for the