

PREFACE

The idea which prompted the undertaking resulting in this volume suggested only a book of biography, bringing together in a comprehensive volume brief sketches of men who today are carrying on the affairs of the Eastern Townships, not in public life alone, but in all the varied activities of this section of Canada. Similar books have been published dealing with the whole of Canada, but in such only comparatively small attention is given to any particular section. The biographical section of the volume which is here submitted is wholly Eastern Townships.

To this is naturally added a chapter dealing with the material position which the Eastern Townships holds in the Dominion—a position which is relatively important and offers opportunities which give promise of a still more prosperous future.

The publishers felt that the volume would be incomplete without an historical chapter dealing with the early settlement and development of the townships and especially as important material pertaining to the early history of the Eastern Townships has come to light in recent years. This volume seemed to offer an opportunity to preserve in permanent form these data, not found in earlier historical works.

Lastly, the inspiring record of Eastern Townships services in the great war called for a place in the present historical volume. No greater heroism in battle has been exhibited in this great struggle than that of Eastern Townships men in defending the bloody salient of Ypres or at Vimy Ridge and in the later struggle around Lens. No more devoted services have been rendered by the civilian population at home than by the women of the Eastern Townships in their various patriotic organizations. The chapter relating to the Eastern Townships' part in the great war is necessarily incomplete. The honor of recording the whole story will fall upon some future historian who will be able to write in the light of a completed event. The publishers believe, however, that the chapter devoted to the Eastern Townships and the war, incomplete as it is, will prove of interest not only now but more particularly in years to come. It is hoped that the volume which is herewith respectfully submitted will be found worthy of a place among the numerous volumes which have been devoted to one phase or another of Eastern Townships' history.