

# CANADIAN HOSPITAL

## NEWS

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### The British Empire

IT has been said many a time, and rightly, that the British Empire is the greatest empire the world has ever seen, and every British heart has thumped more energetically at the thought of it. Can the British Empire be any greater? Can it engender more enthusiasm, more love, more devotion? We believe it can; we believe that this great world war will so purify and revivify the Empire, that what has been possible heretofore, will appear dwarfed beside the happenings of the future. We learn with great satisfaction that within a few weeks, an Imperial Conference, comprising representatives of all the overseas dominions and dependencies will meet daily, for a period, with the War Committee of the British Cabinet, to discuss the problems of the war, and plan for a speedy and decisive victory, followed by an enduring peace. The Mother Country entered the war without asking the advice of her colonies. Such a momentous and withal righteous decision met with the hearty approval of every man and woman of the Empire, and by common consent there was such a springing to arms in Australia and Canada, in Africa and India, and in the isles of the seven seas, as had scarcely been anticipated by the Rulers of Empire, much less by his Imperial Majesty at Potsdam. Oh, it was glorious, glorious! We had the privilege—it was indeed a privilege—during the first August of the war to examine medically the first of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry who gathered in Western Ontario for despatch to Ottawa. There they were joined by men from Canada East and Canada West, to form as splendid a regiment as entered the arena of war, and one perhaps as widely famous as any in the British Expeditionary Force. Do you remember the credentials required of every man seeking admission to the ranks of this famous battalion in those earliest days? Only ex-service men, physically perfect, of a certain stature or higher, with good characters or better, had any chance of acceptance. How eagerly they came, these men who had served their Queen or King in the far corners of the Empire; how bitter their disappointment if they did not measure up to the standard; how quickly they mobilised; how speedily they whipped into shape; how proudly they marched out of the capital on their journey overseas; how splendidly they withstood the foe; how bravely they fought, and bled, and died, is now a matter of the glorious history of Canada and of the Empire.