

INTRODUCTION

BY GENERAL SIR ARTHUR W. CURRIE

COMMANDER OF THE CANADIAN CORPS

To write a foreword for a book all the chapters of which one has not had an opportunity of reading seems a departure from one of the principles which has guided one's conduct since leaving Canada in September, 1914. But when asked to do so by the author I gladly acceded to his request, for I know him to be a true Canadian and one who has played a gallant part in the recent struggle.

To me, it seems a good thing that soldiers like Colonel George Nasmith, C.M.G., should record what they themselves have seen on the battlefields of France and Flanders. Because it is almost impossible to recover the spirit of past years, official histories, though correct in fact, often lack the personal touch of the eyewitness. I therefore welcome this work, and confidently recommend it to the Canadian public.

As Commander of the Canadian Corps the temptation is strong to take this opportunity to recount some of its doings, and to give an appreciation of the value of those achievements. But this is not the time nor the place to follow that inclination, rather let me attempt an appreciation of the man who made for the Canadian Corps whatever reputation it enjoys, the man whom the Germans liked the least and feared the most—the Canadian soldier.

The gathering together as a fighting force of so many men from Canada, and the comparison of these men with other soldiers on the battlefields of Europe have impressed upon us the realization that a Canadian type of manhood has been evolved, by virtue of the admixture of races, the influence of environment, and the manner of life in our home-land.

Canadians derive their parentage chiefly from the Scotch, the Irish, the English, and the French, and while they have in-