

as you are aware, with the Government's authorization and approval, what became known as No. 8 French-Canadian Hospital, was organized in a few days. The 22nd Battalion and the hospital unit were all overseas by May, 1915; the 41st and the 69th battalions followed in due time. It will thus be seen that there was no lack of enthusiasm or devotedness on the part of the French-Canadians at the beginning of the war, as the rapid organization and quick despatch of the various units I have mentioned amply prove.

Of the record of these units I need hardly speak, as it is known to all who know anything about the war. Your very generous action on behalf of the Canadian Parliament and people, in contributing hospital units to the amount of two thousand beds to the French Army was, I assure you, most deeply appreciated and the services rendered by these units at the battles of Champagne, Verdun and the Somme were recognized as invaluable, in affording greatly needed assistance to the French Army when it was overwhelmed with wounded. The services rendered by those French-Canadian hospital units will, in fact, never be forgotten in France, and not only from the aid which they gave to the wounded, but for the closer and sympathetic relations which they will lead to between France and Canada for all time, your action was a most beneficial and important one. The President of France has, in fact, expressed the view that the sending of French-Canadian units to France would always be most welcome.

From May, 1915, to November, 1916, that is to