## EE16

## THE PAPER WITH SNAP IN IT!



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## DIRECTOR OF SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT.



Beaver Gallery No. 13: Colonel W. A. Simson, C.M.G., D.S.O.

COLONEL William
Amor Simson, who
is of Scotch descent,
was raised in a garrison
town—Halifax, N.S. He
has held every rank from
second lieutenant, and is
a permanent Army Service
Corps man. He saw something of the scrap in South
Africa with the 4th C.M.R.

When war broke out Col. Simson was D.D. of S. and T., of the big camp at Petewa, and there experimented with a Canadian Division Train for the supply of Canadian troops. He went to Valcartier as Senior Supply Officer of the 1st Canadian Divisional Train, but was selected to organise the whole of the C.A.S.C. Units to accompany the 1st Contingent.

C.A.S.C. Units to accompany the 1st Contingent.
Reaching England he was from October, 1914, to February, 1915, Officer Commanding the C.A.S.C.

As Director of Supply and Transport, and head of the Canadian Army Service Corps he has had to shoulder responsibilities hardly realised by even the Canadian authorities. For instance, at one time the C.A.S.C. was feeding about 280,000 Canadians in France and England, over 200,000 French and Belgian refugees and civilians left destitute as the Boche retreated, and over 100,000 British troops on the lines of communication, making a total of nearly 600,000.

The every-day duties of C.A.S.C. officers are only fully comprehended and understood by the highest unlitary authorities. The verage officer and man is

rerage officer and man is theire content to take his no l, ammunition, transland etc., when it is supsonab

plied. He thinks nothing of the time, care, discipline, energy and planning required to deliver the goods. Then the C.A.S.C. Service has worked so smoothly that probably it is the least known to the general public of all the Canadian services in the field. Yet the personnel of the Corps was found everywhere from front to base, as the nature of their duties compelled them to be in touch with every unit of the Canadian Army every day. They had al-ways to be in a position to say where any given unit was, whether infantry, artillery, or cavalry, otherwise these units without food, transport or ammunition would be useless as a fighting force.

Officers of the C.A.S.C. had to know their own job and in addition had to be able to handle the interior economy and discipline of men just the same as infantry officers, and of horses, just like cavalry officers.

In short they had to know the war game inside and out.

That is why Col. Simson with his all-round knowledge has made so excellent a supply officer, and why Canadians have been the best fed of any of the forces in the field.

Col. Simson has had the honour of being complimented by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Army Service Corps. He was mentioned in despatches in 1915 and again in 1916, was given the D.S.O. in France in 1916, and made a C.M.G. in 1919.