

Troops to
Valcartier.

over the Canadian Government Railways to the Strait of Canso and to Sydney.

In those early days many precautionary measures were taken by the Railways in the way of armed patrols, etc., which it was found unnecessary to continue, although it was subsequently discovered that plots to wreck important Canadian Railway structures existed. Fortunately these were not successfully carried out. At the outset, however, there was a scramble for rifles for Bridge Watchmen, and a considerable expense was incurred on this account.

Very soon began that general movement of troops from East and West towards Valcartier, in preparation for the sending of the first expeditionary force to France. After the despatch of the first contingent from Gaspe, the work of embarkation was concentrated at Halifax and St. John, mainly at the former port. The Canadian Pacific Railway was not available for this work at that time. The road runs through the State of Maine; and the United States was still a neutral. The passage of troops or munitions through its territory would have been technically an act of war. So, for the first two and a half years of the war, troops from all parts of Canada were handled exclusively by the Canadian Government Rail-