

Canada Reborn a Fighting Nation

By Francis J. Dickie

TWO years of blood and fire, of sacrifice and tears, of heartaches and noble renunciations, of vast endeavor and vaster accomplishment—and Canada stands forth on this, her anniversary month of August, 1916, as a nation reborn. No longer do we and the world at large look upon her or think of her in that old and famous way which was so synonymously expressed by the name, "My Lady of the Snows." No; Canada through these two years of strife and strivings has been reborn into a wonderful new maiden, a mighty Amazonian giantess, a creature born of battle, strong and fierce to fight in the cause of right. Canada renaissant! Canada no longer the timid shrinking little land of far wilderness places, but Canada the land which has raised to fight 350,655 sturdy, lusty warriors; sent overseas already 200,000, of them; Canada the place of half a billion dollar shell contracts, and who is feeding half the warring armies out of her boundless wealth of cereals, supplying endless munition matter from her immeasurable and exhaustless mineral deposits.

Yet the land is so vast, the population so sparse and scattered that even the people have no idea how much they have together accomplished. Mrs. Western Farmer and Mrs. Eastern Lawyer and Banker, the homesteader and the merchant from Vancouver to Halifax, and all the rest have done their share without being fully informed of what their neighbors have done.

Because of this, it seems worthy upon this the anniversary of Canada's second year of war to sum up carefully all these things in cold hard facts of men, dollars, munitions, horses, food and the other varied things called forth by war.

Canada, with a total area of 3,729,665 square miles and a population of only 8,075,500, raised in the two years 350,655 men, 205,500 of whom are overseas, 30,000 of whom have figured in the casualty lists. The enormity of this accomplishment looms larger when it is known that out of all this eight odd million people only 1,125,000 were men eligible for military service.

The following table illustrates more clearly than any words the facts.

Province	Canadian Born	British Born	Foreign Born	Total Eligible Males	Government Apportionment of Troops for 3 Maritime Provinces	Enlisted to July 15th, 1916
P. E. Island.....	16,592	157	119	16,868		
Nova Scotia.....	85,909	8,437	4,147	98,493		
New Brunswick.....	64,188	2,371	2,151	68,710		
Quebec.....	341,783	23,066	26,048	390,897	139,000	31,633
Ontario.....	410,896	106,997	64,353	582,246	185,000	36,890
Manitoba.....	149,868	39,806	33,088	222,762	for M. & S.	145,193
Saskatchewan.....	61,193	38,871	58,843	158,907	60,000	71,825
Alberta.....	37,146	31,958	53,515	122,619	26,000	31,735
British Columbia.....	41,508	34,718	62,046	138,272	27,000	33,379
	1,109,358	306,377	307,319	1,723,054	502,000	350,655

From this it will be seen that according to the government figures there were 1,720,070 males eligible for service at the time of the last Dominion Census. But this figure takes into consideration all males irrespective of nationality, and makes no allowance for those made unfit through physical reasons. So, taking into consideration that 208,589 Austrians, Hungarians and German-born subjects were in Canada when war broke out, and that the majority of the Province of Quebec is taking no part in the war, it has been very carefully estimated that all told Canada had only 1,125,000 fighting males to draw upon. And of this number 350,655 men had been raised to July 15th, the last date of official issuance of recruiting figures.

Let us examine this army in detail, for it is one that Canadians may be well proud of. It is the best equipped, best paid, best pensioned one in the world. In addition the dependents of the fighting men are taken care of with a lavishness of funds unequalled or even nearly approached by any of the countries to-day at war. The following table of pensions, pay, separation allowances to wives and children gives most strikingly these facts.

	Pay per day	Amount of Pension	Separation Pay Per month	Wife	Patriotic Fund Extra
Rank Private.....	\$1.10	\$180.00	Child \$5.00	\$20.00	\$5 to \$20
Sergeant.....	1.60	680.00		25.00	
Lieutenant.....	2.60	720.00		30.00	
Captain.....	3.00	1,000.00		35.00	
Major.....	5.00	1,250.00		40.00	
Lieutenant Colonel.....	7.00	1,500.00		50.00	

The last named fund is perhaps the most striking instance of all of the generosity of the Canadian people, of their willingness to sacrifice for the cause of the present war. Not satisfied with the fact that the government had made allowance for the fighters' dependents, an added fund was subscribed to by the people throughout the Dominion. This, known as the Patriotic Fund, pays from \$5 to \$20 per month to soldiers' wives and \$5 per month to each child. The fund takes care of the most needy dependents of soldiers; families who for various reasons require more than the regular government allowance can take care of. In 1914-15, this fund paid out \$6,000,000, and \$10,000,000 more is now being collected. \$5,000,000 from Ontario; \$2,200,000 from Quebec; New Brunswick, \$400,000; Manitoba is self-sustaining, paying \$2 per capita into the fund. Nova Scotia and P.E. Island, \$500,000; Saskatchewan, \$700,000; Alberta, \$600,000; British Columbia, \$600,000.

From the table of recruiting figures it will be seen that every province with the exception of Quebec has done their share. Particularly so and most wonderful of all is the marvellous response of the western provinces. Sparse of settlement as they are and needing many men to maintain their pre-eminently agricultural needs, the western provinces have already largely over supplied the government appointment of troops.

Only Quebec lags behind; for all the men she has given she might as well not be in the Confederation. But the situation is a peculiar one, and though certainly the French Canadian people must be censured for this passivity, this censure should be given at least tolerantly, for the habitant is a peculiar person, and for his present stand and outlook on life in general must be in a way forgiven. Only a man who has lived long among them can appropriately interpret and sum up the habitant's feelings. This Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux did recently in a speech before an Eastern Canadian Club. While this does not excuse Quebec for its failure, it is in a way an explanation that will make the greater sacrificing provinces look with more tolerance and the larger view upon these peculiar residents who

make up so large a portion of our land. "The habitant," said Mr. Lemieux, speaking to a large and representative gathering, "has belonged for many generations—for centuries—to Canada. He



Camp Borden, Ontario, one of the oldest military quarters in Canada. About twenty thousand men have been mobilized here.

has no connection except, so to speak, intellectually, and that in a qualified degree, with France. His estrangement from France is manifold. First, he was ceded, in 1763, by the Treaty of Paris. Even before the cession there was a marked difference between the habitant, Canadian (of whom Montcalm speaks in his letters) and the military class—the soldiers, the officers, the bureaucracy—lordling it over him. The correspondence

the Russian and French fronts, Canadians were put on the job. Canadian sailors kept the two sturdy icebreakers going which enabled Russia to keep open the port of Archangel, a most vital thing last winter and the year before. Two hundred aviators have been supplied by Canada. When enough timber could not be obtained from the New World by reason of shortage of ocean bottoms and Norway failed in delivery, a battalion of Canadian wood-



"An Impregnable Defense." Typical sun-burned, sturdy Canadian boys as seen at Camp Borden recently, the biggest mobilization camp on the North American continent where 32,000 men are living on a training quarters 28 miles square.

between Vaudreuil and Montcalm is conclusive evidence of my statement. Then the French Revolution—which destroyed Monarchy, reorganized the Church, qualified the laws and customs, centralized the government—created an abyss, a gulf between the habitant and modern France. The habitant has worked out alone his destiny in a new world. He has won his civil and religious liberty under the regime which followed the cession. All his traditions are therefore Canadian only. On the contrary, British settlement in Canada is of more recent period, especially during the last half century an unceasing tide of immigration has poured in from the United Kingdom. Thus a great portion of the English-speaking Canadians have many relations upon the other side of the water, and when they cross it they are still 'going home,' in a way. Hence, blood being thicker than water, they will quite naturally be stirred by all matters, be they political, social, or intellectual which affect Greater Britain, where the French Canadians will not be interested."

From the above it will be seen that it is very doubtful whether the French Canadians will be of much use to Canada in the present war. The only thing would be to convince the masses that Canada is really in danger, and that by going to war overseas he is aiding to avert a possible invasion. Judging by the way the war is going at the present time, such appeals are likely to fall upon deaf ears.

men, the greatest axemen and sawyers in the world, were rushed to England, and are to-day cutting down some of the ancient and long-saved forests of England to supply bridge and trench and other timbers for the front. Canada to the end of March supplied 48,000 horses for war purposes. Of these she retained 25,000 for her own army, supplied Great Britain with 15,000 and France 8,000.

Though not one single munition factory existed in the country at the end of 1914, she has since built 422, which accepted orders for \$535,000,000 of munitions. Of this amount \$200,000,000 have already been filled and the balance is being put out at the rate of \$30,000,000 a month.

From her great lakes she has taken 32 great steamers for ocean service. Though at war Canada in the two years still built more lines of new railroad than ever before, a total of 6,278. Of this 1,491 in 1914, and 4,787 in 1915, bringing Canada's total mileage to 35,883, ranking her fifth in the nations of earth in this respect, a record the more to be proud of when Canada's meagre population is taken into consideration.

In spite of an enormous shortage of men, Canada, in 1915, raised the greatest crop on record, bringing to its producers \$800,000,000. This was off a total acreage of 37,075,400 which yielded 989,719,150 bushels of all crops. Though the 1916 acreage was only 34,509,835, a lessening of 2,565,565 acres, the crops are on a whole so good that it is now estimated only a six per cent fall off will result.

Financially, she raised \$400,000,000 for war purposes. Of this \$200,000,000 was subscribed within herself. In all, the people have accepted a war debt burden of \$49.05 per capita.

But perhaps the greatest of all her multiple works has been the things done by her women. From coast to coast the feminine souls of society and the masses have clubbed together in aid of warrior and war sufferers. Only a few of the many reports can be given space here but enough to make an estimate of the whole from. The Belgian Relief Society's latest report to July shows Canada to have given in money and provisions \$2,275,000. The Red Cross reports of Quebec from September 1st, 1914 to June 1916, and that of the Ontario Branch from September to June of same period shows a total of 8,008,863 articles sent to the front. These consisted of surgical bandages, socks, pillows, pillow slips, slippers, night shirts, etc. Allowing that the ten other largest cities and their surrounding districts have supplied equally well, and there is no doubt of it, we find Canada to date has sent the colossal number of 80,000,000 comfort parcels to the front in aid of all the different fighting nationalities.

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Canada's accomplishments along industrial lines are equally wonderful with that of her army. She has sent 9,782 doctors, nurses and chemists overseas. When well drillers were needed in the Gallipoli expedition, Canadians were sent for; when they needed railroads on