

able proportion of them were preparing for the ministry of various churches. In one battery I found eleven students from one of our own theological colleges. In another unit of 250 men I was told that there were five ordained ministers serving as privates, including a splendid young minister of our own Church. The Canadian Chaplain Service is now drawing a large number of its recruits from these young ministers, who have served their apprenticeship in the ranks. There are Sunday School teachers, superintendents, elders, a few ministers of our own Church, as well as officials and ministers of other churches, serving both in the ranks and as officers. These men have not lost their religion because they have found themselves in the army.

Alongside of them are men of every occupation, of every life story, of every variety of training, of religious or irreligious opinion. There is as much romance hidden away in the histories of the men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force as there is in those of the soldiers of the Foreign Legion of France. Consequently no general statement can be made which will apply to all, or even to a large majority of our soldiers. There is too much diversity.

There is, however, one class which constitutes so large a proportion of the men of our army, that it may be dealt with as the most representative single group in the force. It consists of the young Canadians of from eighteen to twenty-five years of age, or thereabout, who have gone from our homes, our shops, our factories, our banks, our schools, our colleges. Wherever they may have come from, they are at an impressionable and formative period in their lives. How are they being affected by the war, and what bearing will it have on their religious life?

IV. The War's Impress on Their Religion

They are being made serious by it. They have suffered hardship. They have seen their comrades slain. They have met death face to face many a time. They have asked themselves why this unutterable woe has come upon the world; why they are compelled to suffer so. To them the tinsel and the gilding have been stripped off many a hoary farce, which we have borne with because our fathers bore with it before us. They see things in their reality as they never saw them before. Every public question and every public man will have to reckon with these young men, who have been thinking while they fought, thinking because they suffered. Many a laughing, heedless boy who went away, is coming back a serious-minded, independent, self-reliant man, with more independence and self-reliance than perhaps his father has attained