

CANADA TO-DAY

PRECISELY two years ago Canada stood at the parting of the ways. Upon the fourth of August, 1914, she was faced with an immediate decision upon issues pregnant with the welfare and destiny of her people for generations to come. Eut the instinct of the Canadian people ran unerringly true. Spontaneously and unanimously, through the voice of her representatives in Parliament, the Dominion elected to stand by the Motherland.

Canada chose war.

For a full two years she has followed unflinching her self-appointed path. Once committed, into the world-war she has thrown her full weight of men, money and resources. How, then, has Canada fared? Has she gained by active participation in a conflict so stupendous—or has she lost? Has her prestige among the nations of the earth been enhanced, or has it declined? Have her military efforts, tremendous for so young a country, exhausted her; or does she give evidence of sustained economic strength? In a word, is the Canada of to-day a stronger or a weaker nation than the Canada of two years ago?

Questions such as these are of no small import to policyholders of a Company representing Canadian ideals and reflecting Canadian conditions so accurately as does the Sun Life of Canada.

Most emphatically, Canada has gained by the war. Patriotism has yielded its hundred-fold return.

From the broader national viewpoint she has gained immeasurably. Canadian statesmen have demonstrated to the world their ability to deal decisively and courageously with issues of momentous significance. Canadian leaders in all departments of life have successfully grappled with crises men never faced before. Yesterday they tended to think in terms of counties and of provinces; to-day they think in terms of the Empire and of the world. Canadians have proved their capacity to clearly distinguish between right and wrong, between national honour and national dishonour. They have shown their adherence to the highest ideals this civilization holds. There is also both the nobility and the bitterness of sacrifice. Great has been the price in treasure; but Canada has paid. Greater still

has been the price in blood; that, too, she has ungrudgingly met. Our young Dominion has played the more courageous part; and to Canada, the nation, is universally conceded the high meed of praise the world ever accords a people which staunchly stands by conviction. Canada to-day is a Canada which boasts a new-found prestige.

In no sense of the word was the Canada of two years ago a military nation. But with true Western enterprise she mobilized and organized her resources for war with a rapidity, efficiency and strength that startled the world.

Canada at war has performed the well-nigh impossible.

Who could have dreamed that a population of a scant eight millions could raise, train, equip and maintain a host of 350,000 men, more than double the standing army of the whole British Empire at the outbreak of war? Canada has done it. Who could have thought that after a few short months of training her boys fresh from the plough, the factory, the counting-house and the school could have exchanged blow for blow on equal terms with the legions of a war-machine the mightiest the world has known? Ypres, St. Julien, Festubert, St. Eloi and Hooge have written a deathless answer. Who could have guessed that Canada's infant manufactories could have turned out shrapnel and high explosive shells in numerous millions and minutely accurate to the last thousandth of an inch? The resourcefulness and initiative of Canada's captains of industry have matched the courage of her sons overseas. To-day two hundred thousand Canadians at home are producing war equipment that is leaving Canadian shores to the value of a million dollars daily. And what of the Canadian farmer? Cou'd he, too, answer the call for production, production and yet more production? He did—with an energy and efficiency that won from Canadian farm, orchard and garden a record net product for 1915 valued at over one billion dollars. Canada, in truth, has played a not unworthy part in Armageddon. Her services have won the confidence and gratitude of her allies; they have commanded the wonderment and admiration of neutrals; they have compelled the respect of her foes. The Canada of to-day has made good her claims to nationhood.