

INTRODUCTION.

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I have come here to-day to talk to you about artillery and in particular about the development of artillery material and organization which has taken place during the War; I intend to indicate broadly the principles governing its employment and to illustrate these by examples drawn from the actions fought by the Canadian Corps in France and Belgium.

If I have little to say about the Infantry and other arms you will, I hope, appreciate that it is not because I attach an undue importance to the role played by the Artillery. No one realizes better than the gunners themselves that they are an auxiliary arm and that their task is to assist the Infantry. In the last analysis it is the Infantry advance and their determination to apply the cold steel that alone captures ground and wins battles.

The fire power in the hands of the Infantry themselves, by reason of the modern magazine rifle and machine gun, renders direct assault impracticable for the Infantry alone while the vast numbers of troops placed in the field in modern war results in there being no flanks round which to manoeuvre.

These conditions, together with the increased power of resistance conferred on the defender by reason of field entrenchments and wire entanglements, soon brought the war in Europe into a stable condition, where the opposing armies faced one another along continuous lines from Switzerland to the English Channel.

Each attempt to break the deadlock and obtain power of manoeuvre resulted in prohibitive casualties to the attacker.

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