

## CANADA AT WAR

"As to our duty, we are all agreed. We stand shoulder to shoulder with Britain and the other British Dominions in this struggle."—Premier Sir Robert L. Borden, Canada's War Parliament, August 19th, 1914.

"When the call comes our answer goes at once. It goes in the classical language of the British answer to the call of duty: 'Ready, aye, Ready.'"—Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Leader of the Opposition.

CANADA discriminates clearly between the great body of the German people and the military-mad clique of Prussian autocracy.

With the former she has no quarrel, for among her most loyal and industrious citizens she numbers thousands of German extraction and birth. But when Potsdam claimed world-dominion, Canada knew her mind and her duty. When Britain drew the sword for the enforcement of international treaty obligations, when straight for the heart of France plunged the thunderbolt of Prussian invasion, Canada instinctively grasped the magnitude of the issues at stake. Racial rivalries forgotten and political dissensions dropped, as one man the Canadian sons of Britain and of France voluntarily pledged the last dollar of their treasure and the last drop of their blood for the support of the Motherlands. Canada was at war.

In the first two weeks of conflict Canada settled once and for all time the vital question of Britain's food-supply in time of war. A series of gifts to Great Britain, as munificent as they were characteristic, marked her entrance into the world-struggle. Of flour, one million bags from the Dominion of Canada, one-quarter million bags from Ontario and fifty thousand bags from Manitoba; of oats, one-half million bushels from Alberta and one hundred thousand bushels from Prince Edward Island; four million pounds of cheese from Quebec; one hundred thousand bushels of potatoes from New Brunswick; fifteen hundred horses from Saskatchewan; one hundred thousand tons of coal from Nova Scotia; one million two hundred thousand cans of salmon from British Columbia—such were Canada's initial contributions of food-stuffs. And so long as Britain's fleet holds the seas, Canada's twenty-two million acres of grain-growing areas are at Britain's disposal.

Canada is not a military nation—but the Empire needed men. From Canadian shores thousands of British, French, Russian and Belgian reservists hurried home. At the first call for twenty thousand volunteers to form a first Contingent for Overseas Service, one hundred thousand men sprang to arms. At Valcartier Camp thirty-five thousand of the flower of Canada's manhood were

mobilized, there to prepare themselves for the ordeal by fire on the fields of Europe.

Valcartier itself is a tribute to Canadian efficiency and Canadian enterprise. At the outbreak of war, grain grew on the forty square miles of Valcartier's mountain-rimmed plateau. In three weeks there sprang into being a tented city with five miles of railway sidings, four miles of water-mains, complete sewage and electric-lighting systems, fifteen hundred targets for rifle practice and permanent buildings for the Headquarters Staff. The plains of Valcartier had become a military camp as efficient in equipment and as large in size as any in the world. In six short weeks there was organized and equipped to the last detail a complete army of 31,200 men, 7,500 horses and eleven six-gun batteries of field artillery of the most modern type. Engineers, Artillery, Cavalry, Infantry and the Army Service, Ordnance, Transport and Army Medical Corps, all were represented.

At three o'clock on the afternoon of Sunday the fourth of October last, under the guns of a flotilla of British battleships and cruisers there stole seaward from Gaspé Bay a long, grey line of thirty-two transports bearing the largest military expedition that had ever sailed the broad Atlantic. It was a line so long that it laid the smudge of its smoke against the sky as far as the eye could reach. It was Canada's first contribution of blood for the Great War. Nor will it be the last. The inevitable call for more men will be met by contingents of ten thousand each as long as necessary, and all will be equipped and maintained at the expense of the Canadian people.

The cost to the Canadian Government of the first year of war will easily double the \$50,000,000 voted without debate by Canada's War Parliament. Canada now has a war-tariff; she will soon have a war-debt. But national and personal sacrifice is the price of liberty and nationhood.

The outbreak of war was the signal for a spontaneous wave of generosity that swept the Dominion from ocean to ocean. Machine-gun batteries, and whole regiments of infantry and troops of cavalry were equipped at the personal cost of men