



Upper Canada College—Present Building

appealed strongly to him. He put his ideas before the Governors, a spacious site was purchased at Norval on the Credit River, about thirty miles from Toronto, and preparations were begun for new and beautiful buildings. Negotiations were entered into for the sale of the College property, which had greatly increased in value with the northward growth of the city of Toronto, when suddenly a world cataclysm forced his plans into abeyance.

THE COLLEGE DURING THE GREAT WAR

In 1914 the Great War burst upon a startled world. All English-speaking Canada leaped to answer the call to arms, and among the foremost were the "Old Boys" of Upper Canada College. A residential school is specially fitted to breed men with a heart for public service, and ready to sacrifice themselves for their fellows. Military service had long been an obligation of honour on the boys of Upper Canada College. In 1837, during the rebellion, the boys had offered their services to the Lieutenant-Governor; in 1865 the Rifle Corps had been formed, which in 1866 during the Fenian Raid was for two days the only military body left in the City, for which they furnished the guard. During the North-West Rebellion of 1885 many "Old Boys" had been prominent, and of the very few Victoria Crosses won by Canadians in the South African War, one had fallen to Major H. Z. Churchill Cockburn, son of a former principal.

Thus when the war began, none flocked to the colours with greater enthusiasm than did the "Old Boys" of Upper Canada College. Many were already in the Imperial service, and early in November 1914, the assembled boys in the Hall learned the realities of war when the Principal announced the death on October 29th of Lieut. Cortland G. Gordon Mackenzie, of the Royal Scots Fusiliers (U.C.C. 1900-'07)—"Killed in Action."