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## EXTENT OF THE WORK

principles to control the work of construction: (1) the memorials should be permanent, (2) the headstones should be uniform, and (3) there should be no distinction made on account of military or civil rank. These principles, which were approved by the Imperial Conference of 1918, were further tested, so far as concerned the United Kingdom, by a debate in the House of Commons on 4 May 1920, when the second and third principles were discussed. The matter was left to the free judgment of the House, and a resolution disagreeing with these principles was negatived without a division.

The Commission then proceeded on their labours with the practically unanimous support of public opinion both in the United Kingdom and in the Dominions. The result, as far as the graves are concerned, may be summarised as follows. Some 678,000 headstones have been made and erected—the great majority of them made of British stone and by British labour.\* Varieties of stone have had to be used to stand varying climatic conditions, but most of the headstones are of Portland stone. The Commission have constructed in all some 1850 cemeteries and plots, the smallest containing 40 and the largest some 12,000 graves. Nearly 1000 of these cemeteries have been constructed in France and Belgium.†

The general plan of the cemeteries—the two central memorials, the Cross of Sacrifice and the Stone of Remembrance, and the headstones, alike for all, without distinction of rank or station—is well known. The system under which the architects carried out their share of the labours is perhaps less generally familiar.

At their first meeting in November 1917, the Commission were faced with the choice between throwing open a multitude of

\* The design of the headstone was suggested by a committee of artists which included Mr D. S. MacColl (Keeper of the Wallace Collection), Mr (afterwards Sir) Charles Holmes (Director of the National Gallery) and Mr Macdonald Gill.

† The graves are scattered all over the world; in Appendix C will be found a list of the countries with the numbers of cemeteries and graves in each.

## THE CHOICE OF ARCHITECTS

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designs to public competition or themselves selecting one or two architects of outstanding reputation and leaving it to them to agree on the general principles. Tentative efforts made in the latter direction did not prove very successful, and the Commission invited Sir Frederic Kenyon, then Director of the British Museum, to act as their Architectural Adviser. He visited France and Belgium in the winter of 1917-1918, and in the general report which he submitted he proposed that the designing of the cemeteries should be entrusted in the first instance to young architects who had served in the War, but that principal architects of note, each in charge of a definite area, should be appointed to supervise and approve their work.\* This simple solution, reviving in some measure the relations between the medieval master architect and his school, overcame most of the difficulties foreseen or hitherto experienced. In retrospect, the chief merit of this system is seen to have been the variety of treatment which resulted from the free play thus given to the interest in individual cemeteries natural to architects who were dealing with the burial places of their comrades in arms.

## "KNOWN UNTO GOD"

The Commission were faced with another problem: the commemoration of the many thousands who had no known grave. For, in addition to the erection of headstones over identified graves, and of headstones bearing the inscription "Known unto

\* The work in France and Belgium was, under this arrangement, entrusted to four principal architects: Sir Edwin Lutyens, Mr (now Sir) Reginald Blomfield, Mr (now Sir) Herbert Baker and Mr Charles Holden. The late Sir Robert Lorimer was the architect responsible for the cemeteries in Egypt, Italy, Greece, Germany and the United Kingdom; Sir John Burnet for those in Gallipoli, Palestine and Syria, and Major Edward Warren for those in Iraq.

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