

FOREWORD

It has been said that it is a mistake to begin by an apology, but perhaps there are exceptions to the rule, and I think this little book needs a word or two of explanation. At this early period it is wellnigh impossible to put together a complete story of the gallant Canadians at the Front. I have done what I could with the means at my disposal in the shape of interviews with officers and men who have returned wounded or invalided from the Front, to weave together the tale of the Dominion troops in France. I have let officers and men tell their own story as far as possible. Naturally there are gaps in the account, and the criticism might with justice be made that some battalions are more fully mentioned than others. That must inevitably be the case from the nature of the materials at my disposal. But in spite of obvious defects, I hope this short account may help my readers to understand better what the "boys" from Canada have done, not only in "saving the situation" at Ypres, but in the trenches. My thanks are due to the officers and men who have given me their accounts of various incidents at the Front; to the proprietors of the *Canadian Gazette* for allowing me to use a great portion of the work which I