

so that the Canadian Corps now occupies a smaller front than it did a few weeks ago. The corps is now echeloned in depth and this formation points to operations on a large scale. Behind the front line near Mont St. Eloy extensive billets for troops have been erected and this also points to a strong concentration, and that troops are holding the front in depth. The Canadians are known to be good troops and are, therefore, well suited for assaulting. There are no deserters to be found amongst the Canadians.

I went to see Sir Douglas Haig at Headquarters, and I discussed with him matters of more or less importance relating to the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

When I proposed to return to England the next day, Sir Douglas Haig said to me: "I want you to go and look at the battlefield of the Somme, and I am sure you will come back convinced, as I am, that troops who could capture those positions, can take any position in the world. I want you to go there because some of your own troops have played an important part in that field of operations." I went there. We went through the town of Albert, which has often been spoken of in this House—where the Madonna and Child on the spire still lean over the roof of the ruined church. Among the peasants there is said to be a belief that the war will not end until the statue falls. The Germans deliberately turned their artillery on that church for weeks and finally struck the spire and the church itself is in ruins. We then came to a light railway which was built by the Canadian Railway Construction Corps, under the direction of General Jack Stewart, and I would like this House and the country to appreciate, more perhaps than they have yet done, the work that has been performed by the Canadian Expeditionary Force. The Canadians have played an important part, not only as combatants at the front, but in every sphere of operations. General Jack Stewart was sent for by the Headquarters staff of the Fifth Army not long ago. It was very important that a certain line of railway should be constructed with the least possible delay. The estimate made by experts as to the time required was that it would take six weeks, but it appeared if anything like that time should be necessary, the plan of operations would be absolutely interfered with. So General Stewart was called for and he undertook to examine the ground. He went and looked at it; he came back and said: "If you will give me two battalions of the Canadian Railway Construction Corps, I will undertake to build it in a week." He went on with the work and he built that line of railway in four days.

I went forward to the front on a light railway built by