

OUR NATIONAL BENEFACTION

A REVIEW OF THE CANADIAN PATRIOTIC FUND.

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THE supreme test which in future years will be applied to nations and individuals, when the events of to-day come under review, will be summed up in the question as to how they rose to the occasion at the time of the Great War. In calling to the colours, arming, equipping, and training upwards of 120,000 men within the ten months that elapsed after the declaration of war, Canada demonstrated her loyalty and ability to support the allied cause. Nor was this all, for in her generous financial response to the many claims presented to her people, on behalf of those requiring assistance in consequence of war-time conditions, she performed her further duty with equal wholeheartedness.

Hardly had hostilities commenced before the British, French, and Belgian reservists in Canada, whatever their station or employment, hastened to join their regiments. Many of these left their homes almost on a moment's notice. A fortnight later the mobilization of the first Canadian contingent began, and a force of 33,000 men was soon assembled at Valcartier. Returns show that fully forty per cent of these men