

A Foreword

It has been thought fitting that some record should be kept of the part played by the Boys of Parkdale Collegiate Institute in the Great War of 1914-1919. A tablet in enduring bronze has been placed in the school, and on it appear the names of the ninety who gave their lives. The object of this little Memoir is to supplement the tablet by telling very briefly the story of each of these young soldiers, in so far as the story may be told. The record is based upon information obtained, where possible, from the parents of the boys, supplemented by data acquired in other ways,—from press items, official despatches, letters, etc. It is hoped that the sketches in this little book, imperfect and inadequate as they are, will prove to be substantially accurate, though it may be—particularly in the case of a few of the Memoirs, where the only available data were some newspaper clippings—that errors have crept in.

In some cases, as will be noticed, the story is pathetically brief. One of our older graduates, Norman Lawless, the first P.C.I. boy to give his life in the War, developed pneumonia while crossing the English Channel, and died shortly after reaching France in February, 1915. Another died in mid-Atlantic on his way to the war; seven young Airmen were accidentally killed while in training in England; not a few of those boys who saw active service were struck down after a few weeks (in some cases, a few days) of fighting. In some instances, even where a boy had served for a long time, few particulars have come to hand, either directly from the boy's own people, or indirectly from other sources. In yet other cases, the difficulty has been to compress, within the limits imposed upon such a Memoir as this, a great mass of available detail. An effort has been made to keep the individual Memoirs as nearly uniform in style and treatment as is consistent with the salient facts which have been furnished and with the desirability