

# THE WAR AND ITS INFLUENCES UPON CANADA

That I should have been asked to address you upon this subject I consider to be an indication of the high morale pertaining to this School and incidentally to the whole Canadian Army. Where morale is low, there is a tendency to live and think for the moment alone — to say "why worry about the future when the future is so uncertain" — to look upon the life of a soldier as a desperate gamble and to suspend all his mental activities until the final cast of the die. But where high hopes and courage and confidence exist there will continue to be speculation and preparation for the future, and particularly there will be a keen intellectual interest in the social and political changes which may be expected to occur after the war.

Two years ago I should have been surprised to find this interest in the future but to-day, when we know that the Central Powers are desperately eager for peace, when we feel that the Allies' strength has so greatly increased, and their accumulation of trained men and of munitions has become so enormous, we are confident that a great military victory must come in the spring and I, for one, am of the opinion that not later than the end of the summer the enemy will again ask for peace, not upon *his* terms, but upon *our* terms.

It is, therefore, well worth our while to pause amid the labours of the present in order to consider what may be the developments of the future, not merely for the pleasure of our imaginations but because in taking thought and in spreading the influence of that thought, we may considerably assist in the actual moulding of that future.

There will be two main divisions to the effects of the war upon Canada — the first will be the influence upon her external relationships — the second the influence upon her internal conditions.

The first of these will naturally present the greatest difficulties for the prophetic vision. The possible complications are immense and the final effects will depend to a much greater extent upon the actual result of the war.