

PREFACE

As a general rule, a man must be a native of the country in which he claims the rights of citizenship. This is broadly true in connection with Germany, France, Russia, and Great Britain, but it is not true of Canada, nor yet of Australia or the United States. There are Canadians of all classes who were born on the soil, but there are also typical Canadians, with full citizen rights, who hail from all the civilised lands under the sun.

This volume deals, as its title indicates, with typical modern Canadians, but it is not a treatise on racial development or on the evolution of a spirit of devotion to a new and composite country. It is a book of impressionistic studies of a number of the outstanding Canadians, in various walks of life, who have built up the present-day Canada which is distinguished alike for its industrial greatness and its romantic traditions. These studies attempt to do some amount of justice to the patriotic efforts of certain men whose names are well known through the medium of the press, but who are little more than names to the general public.

An attempt has been made to provide a record of strenuous personal work done by men whose claim to public recognition lies rather in what they have done for Canada than in their descent or family connections. But this volume is no mere record of self-help, while it is recognised that the men of whom these chapters tell owe as much to Canada as Canada owes to them. They are men whose chief claim to distinction probably lies in their complete adaptability to the environment in which they found themselves; and they must therefore be necessarily judged rather by what they became as