

FOREWORD

IN placing this remarkable and unique book before the public, it is with the hope and belief that the great nations of the world will finally decide that wars must no more disturb the progress of the universe; that small nations will realize their heritage; that militarism and autocracy will be swept from the earth; that there will come firm assurance of Peace and Good Will among men of all races, colors and creeds.

It is the intention of the compiler to give to the soldiers, their relatives and friends, a souvenir of the great war—a lasting and enduring book that, for generations to come, will be always of interest.

He commences with events leading up to the outbreak of war, and in this particular only does he refer to the European nations, because in this only were Canadians interested in that memorable month of July, 1914. He then takes his readers to Parliament Hill where, in the historic building since razed to the ground by fire, set by an enemy hand, are portrayed the events which took place during those meetings of Canada's statesmen. Again, before the reader's mind, come memories of those pre-war days when, from East to West, and from North to South, the whole country awaited breathlessly the news from Ottawa. All knew what that news must be, yet none dared speak, and when the word was flashed from coast to coast, but one thought, one emotion and but one word in the language stood out clearly—WAR.

From that moment onward and covering a period of more than four years the reader is told, not so much of the war itself, as of what Canada and her sons have done to defeat Kaiserism.

Here in detail are given facts and figures showing that Canada was not a slacker nation. From the rock-bound coasts of Louisburg to timber-crowned Vancouver, Canada has done her part loyally and nobly.

In addition to the text the readers may point with pride to the photos of their Heroes who have fought, some of whom have died, for them. When the war clouds have passed away; when the boys come back from "Over There," they will revel in its pages, and point joyously to the pictures of their chums and comrades; when "Our Heroes" have grown to old age they will be delighted in their hours of ease to again take up this book and recall the great days of the war; aye, even when "Our Heroes" have passed to the Great Beyond, their children and their children's children will turn over the mellowed pages of this book, and with a glow of pride and a tear they will hunt for Daddy and Grand-daddy, and proclaim to their friends that these are "Our Heroes" who took their part and who did their bit in Armageddon.

Let us fondly hope that when the time comes to place the deeds and records of this war before the world in an unbiased, truthful light, we shall have progressed so far toward the millenium that all enmities and hates shall fall from us as a loosened mantle; that nations whose borders are now darkened by the clouds of war shall cease to struggle in the darkness, and with new understanding and faith, each in the other, will climb to the heights of a new-found wisdom, rising serene above the lowering clouds into the glorious sunshine of freedom. When this time comes there will no longer be the question of who shall or shall not rule. There will be no disputed territory on the border lines of nations, and racial and political feuds will have vanished from the earth.

—J. H. D.