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ADDRESS BY MARSHAL FOCH

AT THE CEREMONY OF THE UNVEILING OF THE MONUMENT ERECTED BY
THE CANADIAN BATTLEFIELDS MEMORIALS COMMISSION AT ST. JULIEN

It is indeed easy for me, at the foot of this Monument, to recall that fateful day when the Germans, in an effort to assure victory, had recourse to emissions of gas, violating once more another treaty, another solemn agreement.

How can one forget such events? Can you understand the deep anguish of the leaders who, surprised by new methods of attack against which they had no means of defence, had just the same to face them and send into the furnace men whom they knew in advance to be disarmed?

It is the glory of those men come from Canada to have held fast, and, miracle of energy, counter-attacked St. Julien, making this village and the little neighbouring wood into a redoubt behind which Marshal French and I were able to seek and put into effect means which were to prevent the surprise from becoming a serious defeat.

The Canadians paid heavily for their sacrifice and the corner of earth on which this Monument of gratitude and piety rises has been bathed in their blood. They wrote here their first page of that Book of Glory which is the history of their participation in the war.

For it is not only here that their steady courage overcame the most desperate efforts of the enemy. We find the Canadians again at the Ridge of Vimy which they capture and widely overrun in a superb assault.

When the outlook is dark, at the end of March, Canadians are among the first who arrive in the breach before Amiens

And/

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers
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