

the world. The Prime Minister has referred in generous terms, for which we are grateful, to that occasion when perhaps the sternest test to which men were ever subjected came to the First Canadian Division. They were not trained soldiers; for less than a year before they had been engaged in the ordinary avocations of civil life within our Dominion. They had been immersed, as perhaps we were all then immersed, in material considerations, which are likely to influence very strongly the people of a new and rapidly developing country. They went forth with little military knowledge, with practically no military training, and they were subjected to that awful test. It is enough to say that they did hold their ground under conditions when men of wider experience and longer training might well have wavered. We remember with pride that they did bar the way of the Germans to Calais, and that perhaps they changed the destiny of the world.

From that time up to the present the record of the Canadian Expeditionary Force has been equally proud. In every test, in every engagement, they have held their own, held it gallantly and splendidly. Among some forty or fifty thousand of them whom I had the privilege of seeing and addressing in France the only complaint I heard was that during recent months they had had no opportunity of meeting the Germans. They hoped most earnestly that the Germans would attack the position which they had established on Vimy Ridge. There was no such good luck, for the Germans were fully advised of the reception they would meet.

There are four Divisions of Canadians now in France—about one hundred and twenty-five thousand men in the fighting line. We hope that the members of the Canadian Press will see them in France. We want you to see them there; more than that we want you to see the organization not only there but in the United Kingdom, and to judge whether or not Canada has any reason to be proud of its Army Corps and of that organization. We hope you will see it and realize it and give to the people of Canada your frank impressions. To those Canadians in the United Kingdom who have not had the opportunity of seeing service at the front—to those who have been engaged in other tasks here, may I say this: the issues of this war are so supreme that no man is entitled to regard the part he takes in it as small or mean or insignificant. The cause is so overmastering that every man's part in it is a great part;