



SIR ROBERT BORDEN INSPECTING A CANADIAN BATTALION IN FRANCE

CANADA'S PREMIER AT THE FRONT

THE war is not in our midst ; but so close is it to the Central Lodge of our Empire that it may be visited at any time by our King and our statesmen. Our leaders need never plead ignorance of conditions at the Front ; for the Front and its amazing conditions are there for them to see with their own eyes.

Canada's Prime Minister again took advantage of the accessibility of the war early in March. He visited the British and French Commanders-in-Chief, the General Officer Commanding the Canadian Corps, and the headquarters of all the Canadian divisions. He inspected one or more infantry brigades of each of our divisions, units of our other fighting arms, our hospitals, the Canadian Railway Construction Corps and the Canadian Forestry Corps.

Sir Robert Borden's first visit to the Front was made in July, 1915, when Canada had only one division in the field. At that time the British were dug securely into the ground—and so were the Germans. Canada then held the Ploegsteert-Wulverghem-Kemmel line ; the science of trench-raiding had not yet been elaborated ; pitiful restrictions in the expenditure of shells continued to be laid upon our gunners ; Ypres, Festubert and Givenchy were still fresh in Canadian hearts and minds.

Now—a few weeks ago—he saw a vast fighting force of Canadians. He saw the men of the flooding tide and the guns with full rations of shells—the men and the guns that had already dug the enemy out of innumerable lines of defence and elaborate fortifications and prodded and pounded them back toward Germany.

He saw, with his own eyes, more than enough to satisfy him that Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig's and General Nivelle's glowing praise of the Canadian Corps was sincerely spoken and splendidly deserved.



SIR R. BORDEN TAKES THE SALUTE
Brigadier-General MacDonnell is standing beside the Premier