

## PREFACE

MOST of the material in this volume was collected for a doctoral dissertation presented at Harvard University shortly after the beginning of the Great War. A little later it was recast for the Semicentennial of the Confederation. Since the reasons for the participation of Canada in the War were then little understood in the United States, and the reasons for the non-participation of the United States as little understood in Canada, publication of a study demanding mutual tolerance and respect seemed singularly inopportune. Now that misunderstanding has been dissipated by the intervention of the Republic, there appears to be no further cause for delay.

To meet the needs of the moment I have therefore prepared this abstract. Aside from the omission of many biographical details and critical observations, and the addition of a few references to the developments of the War, the text is practically that of the first draft. That the events of the last five years have substantiated most of my conclusions leads me to hope that the aim with which the work was undertaken may not be entirely unfulfilled. At any rate, I trust that the volume may provide an adequate background for the series to which it is an introduction; that it may deepen, in Canada, the growing interest in the beginnings of its literature; that it may emphasize, in the United States, the emergence of