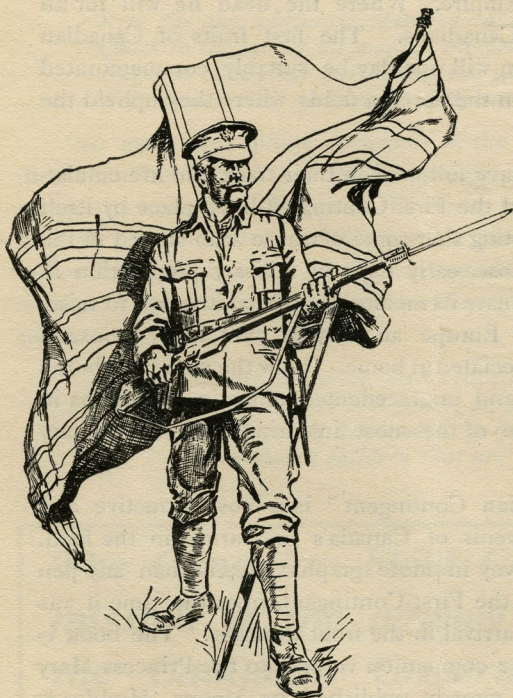


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ALBERT BRITNELL

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"Somewhere in France" the First Canadian Contingent sealed with its blood the Imperial destiny of the Dominion. The army of thirty thousand men that sailed down the lordly St. Lawrence and across the broad Atlantic less than two months after the declaration of war was the answer of Canada to the German challenge. At Langemarck, St. Julien and Festubert the Canadians stood in the gap against the flower of the German army and saved the Empire. Where the dead lie will for all time be hallowed ground for Canadians. The first fruits of Canadian loyalty, the deeds of these men will one day be suitably commemorated in enduring stone or bronze on the foreign fields where they upheld the flag.

Other Canadian troops have followed in their track and are emulating their glorious example, but the First Contingent has a place by itself in Canadian history. It is fitting that some of those who shared in the difficulties and triumphs of those early days of military preparation in Canada should seek to perpetuate its memories. What it means to raise, train, equip, and despatch to Europe an army of over thirty thousand men is not, we fear, fully appreciated at home. How the men have borne themselves under very trying and unprecedented climatic conditions in England and in France is one of the most inspiring tales in military history.

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You help our Canadian soldiers

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The history of the Contingent prior to its departure for the front is summed up in the catch phrases of the men: "Are we downhearted?" "NO!" "Are we wet?" "YES!" As Miss Jessie Pope writes:

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Quick to the call of the mother, the young Canadians came.
Eager to show their mettle, ready to shed their blood,
They bowed their necks to the collar and trained in Wiltshire mud.*

No more appropriate memento of the boys who have fought and died could be devised than this charming picture book of life in camp and in the trenches. The price, 75 cents, brings it within reach of all, and the large demand for this artistic production that is bound to follow its publication should augment considerably the funds so urgently needed by Canadian Field Comforts Commission. The book is dedicated to the First Contingent.

*"Living and dead, their brave hands garland thee
With love and honor, an unfading crown
A goodly heirloom to be handed down
To children's children that are yet to be."*

The Canadian Field Comforts Commission is the agency appointed by the Canadian Government for the distribution of extra clothing and comforts to the Canadian Contingent

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