

## CHAPTER II.—HISTORY AND CHRONOLOGY.

### PART I.—HISTORY.

In the 1922-23 edition of the Canada Year Book, pp. 60-80, will be found an outline of the history of Canada, not reprinted here due to pressure on available space.

A select bibliography of historical works relating to Canada was contributed by the late Adam Shortt, C.M.G., LL.D., F.R.S.C., Chairman of the Historical Documents Publication Board, Ottawa, to the 1925 edition of the Canada Year Book, where it appears on pp. 53-55.

#### Section 1.—Canada on Vimy Ridge.\*

##### The Canadian Memorial.

In the centre of that part of northern France where Canadian troops were chiefly engaged in the Great War, stands the noble memorial erected to them by their countrymen. Two majestic pylons of stone, rising from a massive square base, decorated with sculpture and suitably inscribed, commemorate the deeds and sacrifices of half a million Canadians who served overseas in the years from 1914 to 1919. The interpretation of the significance of a memorial depends largely on the beholder, and here is a wealth of symbolism to inspire contemplation: the artist, Mr. W. S. Allward, has represented the strong wall of defence; the forces of France, of Canada, and of Great Britain; Gallantry, Sympathy, and Sacrifice; Justice, Truth and Knowledge; Death, Sorrow, Peace and the Cross.

To this spot on Vimy Ridge, hallowed by the blood of many a brave soldier, will come this year a pilgrimage from distant Canada; and in the presence of many pilgrims the memorial will be unveiled.

##### The History of the Capture of the Ridge by the Canadians, 1917.

**Topography.**—The Vimy Ridge forms a barrier nine miles long across the western edge of the Douai Plain between the Rivers Souchez and Scarpe, and offers the most favourable position for an army advancing either eastwards or westwards in that district. The general direction of the Ridge is from N.W. to S.E. The northern end rises abruptly from the Souchez ravine, 200 feet in half a mile which includes a summit known in 1917 as "The Pimple"; southwards is the main body of the massif, rising another 150 feet in the next mile to the main summit, where the Canadian Memorial now stands and formerly known as Hill 145, from which point it broadens and slopes down gradually to the Scarpe near Arras. The south-western slope of the Ridge, at the foot of which lay the Canadian trenches, consists of open rolling farmlands, while on the N.E. the German side of the Ridge is wooded and falls abruptly to the Douai Plain, a flat and fertile area with occasional coal-pit heads among the villages and farms.

**Earlier Operations.**—Its commanding position, overlooking Arras to the south, Douai to the east and Lens to the north, made the Ridge one of the most important tactical features on the Western Front, and a focus for continual fighting throughout the War. In the first week of October, 1914, the French forces moving on Douai had been met by the German Sixth Army and driven back across the Vimy Ridge to the line Arras-Souchez. The adjoining Lorette Spur north-west of Souchez was also captured by the Germans, who, now masters of the coalfields of

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