

When news of the battle reached the German High Command, Field Marshal Hindenburg was astonished at the *débâcle* which, as General Ludendorff said, was a heavy defeat that cast all calculations to the winds. A thorough investigation of the underlying causes found that the opposition offered by the German artillery had been slow and inadequate during the preparatory stages and that, because heavy and siege batteries available in Douai had not been brought into action, communications and supply had broken down under fire; it also found that the counter-attack divisions should have been brought nearer to the front and should have intervened immediately the line was broken. But General Ludendorff himself had visited the German troops before the attack and found them battleworthy; it is also well established that they put forth their utmost exertions to execute every move designed to hold the Ridge, and the findings recorded, coupled with the course of the battle, make it evident that the German commanders and staffs, both senior and subordinate, had miscalculated not only the efficiency of the Canadian preparation, and the speed of the Canadian attack, but also the capacity of the Canadian Corps to pass so readily from swift and sustained assault to aggressive and concerted defence.

**Contemporary Opinion.**—The French staff, whose verdict on the plans had been far from reassuring, were overjoyed, and they now revisited the familiar battlefield to review and inquire into every phase and incident. The French press paid tribute to the valour of the troops and accepted the Ridge as an Easter gift—a gift which the French Government acknowledged in December, 1922, by generously presenting to the people of Canada 250 acres of the battlefield as a memorial site.

The importance of the operation is shown by the messages of congratulation which passed at the time: from the British Government; from the Duke of Connaught; from the Governor General of Canada—an appointment to be held within five years by the Corps Commander, as Baron Byng of Vimy; from the Prime Minister of Canada, who expressed the intense appreciation and pride of the Canadian people in the record of their forces; from the Governor General of Australia who sent congratulations from the Commonwealth. A message declaring that “The manner in which the operations were prepared and carried out reflects the highest credit on Commanders, Staffs and Troops” was also issued by the Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies in France, who had himself received a telegram from His Majesty The King reading—

The whole Empire will rejoice at the news of yesterday's successful operations. Canada will be proud that the taking of the coveted Vimy Ridge has fallen to the lot of her troops. I heartily congratulate you and all who have taken part in this splendid achievement.

GEORGE, R.I.

**Subsequent Operations.**—The break-through at Vimy, although it caused a crisis for Germany, was not destined to yield the expected strategical results for the Allies; the great French attacks on the Aisne, which began on 16th April, met with disaster, and for the remainder of the year an increasing burden was laid upon the British. The Canadian Corps was engaged at Arleux, Fresnoy, Avion, Lens, Hill 70 and Passchendaele, after which it returned to occupy the Vimy sector, and spent the winter in absorbing reinforcements and constructing defences against the German attacks expected in the spring. Having disposed of the Russian Front by