

The Iron Sixth

Canada's Golden Gateway sent forth her gallant sons
Who proudly marched with smile and song to face the German guns;
Wher'er their duty called them, 'twas there they won their fame,
And on the Scroll of Honour is the TWENTY-SEVENTH'S name.

Yet farther west, and still her sons is Canada sending out,
The TWENTY-EIGHTH Battalion fights with never a fear or doubt;
From the head of Lake Superior and the Province of Golden Wheat,
The boys are marching 'gainst the foe with never falt'ring feet.

B.C. sent her quota, and the TWENTY-NINTH is there,
Broad-chested, stalwart manhood, out just to do and dare;
Vancouver's boys are marching with steady step and true,
Determined all to "play the game", and see the whole thing through.

A breath from Calgary's city, flung where the fight is worst,
Still more of Canada's manhood in the gallant THIRTY-FIRST;
From prairie land and city they answered to the call,
And bravely shouldered rifle, lest their Empire's honour fall.

From Winnipeg's Golden Gateway to Vancouver's rainy shore,
Come Canada's sons to keep the Flag of Empire to the fore;
From Kimmel down to Wipers, go when and where you will,
The IRON-SIXTH have paid the toll, and are bravely paying still.

CHORUS:

Canada, O Canada,
The pride of all the West,
We'll fight for thee, we'll die for thee,
So that our Homeland be,
The bounteous land, the glorious land,
Forever of the free.

The above poem was set to music by the members of the 6th Brigade, 2nd Canadian Division during the First World War and sung on the march. The numbers refer to the constituent battalions of the "Iron Sixth" Brigade of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.