

*Major Geo. McDonald (President) prefaced the reading of the address as follows:—*

My earliest recollection of Talbot Papineau goes back to an affair that took place in the lane between Peel and Metcalfe Streets in which he acted as one of the principals. It was an affair of honour. He acted with courage and with chivalry and earned the admiration and respect of all his schoolfellows. That admiration and respect continued in whatever walk of life his subsequent career found him and it increased as he developed.

In the first week of August, 1914, he was attending the Convention of the Association of Canadian Clubs in Vancouver as representative of the Montreal Canadian Club. On that occasion he made an address on "The Nationalist Idea in Quebec." The address made a profound impression on the convention and was the subject of some very complimentary references at the next gathering of the Association which took place in Ottawa in November, 1919. In his remarks he stated in regard to the war "that Canada did not have one word to say in the diplomatic negotiations leading up to it or in the declaration of war." He did not think this right but, notwithstanding his views, he was one of the first to volunteer. He enlisted from Vancouver and was given a commission in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, with which regiment he went overseas. As he had no previous military training many people thought that it would be some time before he could be of much use as an officer. It did not take much experience of the war to make us realize that besides a knowledge of barrack square drill many other qualifications were essential in a good officer. These he possessed in an unusual degree. His personal courage, his untiring energy and his resourcefulness soon proved his sterling worth. He served with his battalion in the trenches during the first hard winter and he was in the forefront of all the engagements in which it was concerned during that period. He was the first Canadian to win the Military Cross. He also won the love and respect of his men and of his brother officers. He always looked after the comfort of his men before thinking of his own and he never ordered his men to do anything or go anywhere that he did not personally lead