

Notes and Comments

By Rev. R. G. MacBeth, M.A.

THE LATE CHIEF McLENNAN

IT is a year ago this month since the gallant and highly-respected Chief McLennan, in the discharge of his duty in Vancouver, fell at the hands of a drug-crazed degenerate who was terrorizing a peaceful district of the city. The year has been crowded with great events of world significance, but locally the memory of a good man, who was intent in his purpose for a clean and law-abiding community, has been kept green in the minds and hearts of people whose opinion is worth while. McLennan had much of the cool courage and the wistful mysticism which blend so remarkably in the character of the Highlander. His courage was evidenced up to the moment of his death, and his mysticism appeared in his profound respect for true religion and his strong devotion to the welfare of children. The shock of his death emphasized the immense importance of the policeman in human society, for the anarchy against which every officer stands on guard at the risk of his own life would, if unchecked, land the world in chaos. It is good to know that McLennan's work has been ably and successfully carried on by our present Chief Constable McRae and as fine a corps of officers and men as can be found in any city in our own country or elsewhere. They deserve the respect and the support of all right-thinking men and women in Vancouver, and their services ought to be recognized in a tangible as well as a sentimental manner.

THE RETURN OF THE FIRSTS

In acknowledgment of the immensity of their labors and in realization of the terrific strain to which they have been subjected since the outbreak of the war, large bodies of the Canadians who went forth at the outset are being permitted by the Dominion Government to return home for a time. This is as it should be. They have done their part nobly and have written the name of Canada high on the scroll of fame. Synchronising with the return of these battered but undefeated men, it would be well for the government to suppress the persons who talk sedition too freely amongst us. Talk of that kind is an insult to the men who are returning maimed and broken from the great conflict for human freedom. It is well enough to prate about free speech, but there is no free speech or free anything else where the Hun is in control. And men at home who help the Hun with their mouths should be given short shrift.

* * *

THE POLITICAL FUTURE

Political partyism can run wild into unreasoning partizanship if men choose to abrogate their right to independent thinking. But though party names may change with the years, it is probable that no free state can exist without party in some form or other. A free people will not be disposed permanently to entrust the duties of government to men without the desirable check which comes from a watchful opposition, because the frailties of human nature in a world of tempting oppor-