

These in very brief form are the principal influences which I expect the war will have upon the external relationships of Canada.

As to the influence upon internal conditions the various manifestations are too numerous to be all mentioned here. I shall speak of what may be the more striking and important.

What, for instance, will be the relationship between the returned Canadian army and the other Canadian citizens? What will be the future military history of Canada?

I think we may take it for granted that whether any soldiers' party exists or not — and of that possibility I will speak in a moment — the public opinion of the country will be greatly influenced by the opinions of the soldier citizens. Their opinions, I venture to think, will be directed to secure two principal things. First, that every step will be taken to prevent another war. The army, contrary to generally conceived ideas, will be strongly opposed to war for war's sake. We will have a wholesome horror and detestation of this inhuman method of achieving human progress.

But in the second place the army will have realized the advantages to a people of military training as an insurance against aggression, as a means of improving the physique of a nation, and as an admirable disciplinary measure. They will look upon the duty of defending their civilization, not as one which can be voluntarily assumed by certain classes of the community but as the necessary and compulsory duty of every citizen.

I believe, therefore, that some form of compulsory military training will be adopted in Canada after the war.

This will at least necessitate the maintenance of a considerable staff of regular officers as well as a number of regiments to act as a standing army or as the skeleton frame for a larger organization.

We must abandon the ridiculous limitations that our soldiers can only be used for home defence and we must sub-ordinate everything to a wider strategy which may require, as is the case in this war, that our troops be employed independently of any territorial limits and wherever it may appear advisable to send them.

Since we are to be united to the armies of England and Australia and South Africa, our military organization should be developed upon similar lines so as to allow a ready cooperation. There should be an exchange of officers and even of regiments, and the training and progress of our separate arms should be closely coordinated.