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January
Eighth
1921.

Colonel Charles Flick, C.M.G., D.S.O.,
Room 26, New Drill Hall,
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Colonel Flick:-

I am in receipt of your letter of December 17th last, in which you do me the honour of asking me to become the patron of the Pacific Coast Officers' Association.

I accept with pleasure and regard it as a privilege to be identified with any Association which has for its purpose the giving of assistance to disabled officers by means of helping them to become re-established. I yield to none in my admiration for the decisive part played by other ranks in the winning of the War, but at the same time, I know the value of good leadership whether that leadership was practised by an officer or a non-commissioned officer.

It is a fact that the majority of officers in the Canadian Army at the close of the War were men who had served in the ranks. It would have been to the financial advantage of many of these men to have remained as non-commissioned officers. On account of their value as leaders they were urged to take commissions and suffered financially in doing so. I know no member of our forces who was more poorly paid than the subaltern.

We must keep alive the spirit displayed in the War, not only the spirit of comradeship, but of helping each other, standing by each other, the one for all and all for one spirit. If we do not we shall go back and so prove unworthy of those who did so much to make the name of Canada revered throughout the world.