

Sir Arthur Currie, K.C.M.G. G.C.B.  
by Capt I St. Clair.

I was an instructor of P.T. at the schools in Victoria, when Sir Arthur made his first bow to the public in his brief experience as a school teacher.

I taught him fencing, boxing, singlestick, tennis, and swimming; I believe I was his first instructor in infantry drill also.

He was a very tall thin lad in those days, but most energetic, and wonderfully strong, as a proof of his slender build I have still the photo that he gave to me when he left us, it is signed, yours very sincerely, and I am proud to say that he still signs his frequent letters to me in the same cordial terms.

The incident I am about to relate was, maybe, the cause of his giving up school teaching; at any rate it happened just before he left. He did not punish boys with a cane or a strap, instead he shook them in a way that I have never seen a teacher do before or since: holding the boy by the collar of his coat he jerked him up from his seat and banged him down on it.

One day Sir Arthur came rushing into the gymnasium in his usual whirlwind style, I knew he had not come in for a singlestick<sup>bout</sup> with me, that there was something in the air. He said at once "The Principal has asked me to give one of my best boys the strap for fighting" and I do not feel like doing it, it is so unjust, I have carefully enquired into the affair, and I see plainly that my boy was not to blame. The other fellow was certainly the aggressor, and simply forced my boy into the fight.

"Don't be too sure about that my lad" I remarked, "I am sure"