

(Reprint from the Canadian Municipal Journal).

## A NATIONAL DEBT

By A. H. D. HAIR

*Hon. Secretary "Last Post" Fund.*

"If ye break faith with us who die,  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow,  
In Flanders Fields."

—(Lieut.-Col. John McCrae).

### THE VALUE OF SENTIMENT

A noble comment from a noble son of the Empire, urging us to a full appreciation of our citizenship, our responsibilities, our tremendous debt to those who have, to those who are now doing so, and to those who for the next fifty years will pay the supreme price of Empire building. That challenge comes direct from the battlefield of Flanders, from the lips of one whose poetical inspiration, life and death, were consistently Imperial and ennobling. It comes to us as a waft from the "Melting Pot" of nations now being moulded into a new code of international ethics, and it binds and points us to an irrefutable truth, that each nation claiming for its present condition of belligerency the fundamental principles of the human race, owes an incomprehensible debt of gratitude to those who have sacrificed the one thing most dear to all, **the life they offered in humanity's interests**, and for the welfare of generations yet unborn.

#### How can we repay this debt?

As the purpose of this article is to direct and arouse public attention to one phase of the many answers to that complex question, we intend to confine our remarks to that one in particular, while not forgetting the other and **more material phases**, for our subject, if less material, is of incalculably more importance from a fundamental