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When You Go Back

BEFORE the war Canada's standing army, commonly known as "regulars" or "permanent force" numbered less than four thousand. Canada's "Citizen soldiery" or "Militia" numbered less than 50,000. These last were taught the rudiments of the Art and Science of War during the fortnight of summer camp and knew not war as a business but as a possibility. When the German barbarities startled the world with the necessarily resulting declaration of war by the Mother land, this nucleus from Canada enlisted at once in the service of the Empire. Men came from farm and factory, from shop and school, from business, from the forest, from the mine, from the university, from the professions; men threw up their livelihood; men changed the conditions of their lives completely and gladly; men took up the rigours and restrictions of the Soldier's life; Canadian's were in the conflict early enough to help to follow up the marvellous work of that doughty little army of British regulars. And what is more, no single Canadian soldier regrets having enlisted in this great world war. He may feel disappointed, but sorry that he offered to do his bit for the Empire. Never! If every Canadian would draw the curtain from before the shrine of his inmost and deepest emotions, there would be found an unswerving loyalty and devotion. But,—

When you get back to Canada.
Ah, what then will you do;
Will you return to the some old job,
Is it waiting there for you?
When you go back,
Ah, woful when,
What a lot's to be done
Twixt now and then.

Do we think very much about where the future will find us, what daily routine will claim us after the war. Aren't we rather doggedly determined to see this thing through to the very last ditch. There are big things to be done during the next few months. There are bigger things to be done after Victory, in the reconstruction of a devastated world—and that will need MEN.

O. C. J. W.