

COPY

Garden City Inn,  
St. Catherines, Ont.

September 4th, 1923.

Dr. W.D. Sharpe,  
President,  
Ontario Command,  
G.W.V.A.

Dear Dr. Sharpe,-

On arriving at the meeting of the Convention yesterday afternoon, which I attended at your kind invitation, I was at once called upon by the Acting Chairman to speak on the Last Post Fund. I should have preferred waiting until your arrival, as it would have shortened my remarks ~~in~~ my personal interest in Ex-Service men, and their problems, which had been rendered necessary, in my opinion, by certain observations as to my personal relation to the Fund, which had been made by you at Hamilton.

Further it would have enabled me to deal in some measure, with the views you expressed, after your arrival, as to the desirability of the work carried on by the Fund being placed in the hands of the G.W.V.A., in regard to which I venture to make the following observations:-

1. The principle that "No man who has given his services for the defense of his country should be buried as a pauper" is one that concerns or should concern the general public, who may well be called upon to assist in finding the necessary funds, as the Government grant, which has been made at the solicitation of the Last Post Fund, Montreal, and is, or may be, of a temporary character, is utterly inadequate for the purpose.
2. Any such appeal for public support would come with much greater force from an Organization or Society formed by the public itself, than of an Organization representing any distinct or separate class of the Community, upon which the public, as such, has no representation.
3. If, therefore, The Last Post Fund, which was established 14 years ago, in Montreal, as a local organization and has now become National in its scope, has proved, as it has done, its efficiency, and is capable, from an economic and effective point of view, as I know it is, to deal with the work, why interfere with it? Surely it should be possible for the G.W.V.A. or other Ex-service men's Societies ~~of~~ the projected alliance, if formed, to co-operate with the Fund, so that the fullest effect may be given to the humane object we all have in view.