

scrutinized. From this we gather, therefore, that the soldiers may exercise a weapon of great strength if they remain united, and do not allow themselves to be used for party or unworthy causes.

The very fact that such power exists makes it all the more important that we should appreciate the moral side of our fight. If the weapon at our disposal is unworthily employed, it will be a sad day for the country. Extravagant demands that injure the interests of the populace as a whole, in the favour of the few, will soon render the weapon impotent to do good or evil. We claim to have fought for Homeland and our kinsmen, in which case we must maintain our clean record by strict observance of the same clean principles as directed our forces during the war. Any use of the power for ulterior motives will destroy the faith of the country in her soldiers, and that faith is too grand to be destroyed by thoughtless action. It behoves us to jealously guard that faith and inspire increasing confidence in ourselves. Already there have been many thoughtless acts and ridiculous claims made in the name of the returned soldiers. Here we have the striking lesson of bad leadership. No leader, worthy of the name, would permit the rash acts that have unfortunately done so much to injure the interests of those whom the country desires to honour. The limit of patience of the country may be measured very accurately if the reasons which I have given for our original enlistment are appreciated. The margin of safety is very small, for, after all, our past simply expresses the story of duty well performed. Our fight was as much in our own interests as for others. It is well for us to never forget this very important point.

To return to our organization then, we must insist on the right type of leaders, selected from the midst of those who proved their citizenship in the field, and carefully examined as to their credentials and fitness to represent those for whom they speak. Such men should make the finest representatives which the country may desire, and through them much can be done in the cause of the country we serve. The extent to which we may seek for improvement is only limited by need. If our organization is to merely become a social organization for the assembly of old soldiers, wherein they may swap yarns, then it will have little value, but if it is awakened to its responsibilities and accepts the call of the country to maintain the fine principles for which they fought, then there is much to do, and a broader platform will need to be considered.

The first and probably most important duty would be, to assist the soldier to become an even better citizen than in the past. That may be accomplished by education. Not education of the kind dispensed in the public school, although that should not be neglected, if required, but the broader education that helps to make citizens who appreciate and vote intelligently on all public matters. Such matters as civics, political science, technical improvement, development of the country, etc., which affect indirectly the interests of all. The institutions which I hope to see established, not under the control of any outside organization, but distinctly controlled and run by the returned soldiers, should afford places of recreation, not only of a physical, but mental type. Through these institutions, with carefully selected governing committees, subjects of general interest should be presented, and capable men invited to lecture upon them. By careful selection, instituted by business men of sound principles, matters of immediate moment to the country may be considered, and a well balanced expression of opinion presented to the representatives of the people. In industrial, agricultural, and commercial development, the organization

may have a far reaching effect, but the greatest care must be taken that the grand principles for which we originally organized, may never be lost sight of. Let the shibboleth of the veteran organizations become "Our country and her needs," and let that be the guiding factor in all transactions, and we shall never betray that trust which the country places in us, and which she is so closely watching, partly in fear but full of hope. We have earned the right to speak for the country, and it will be well for us to carefully and jealously guard that privilege. To do this we must take the greatest care that no power to speak in the name of the returned soldier shall be given to any person until he has demonstrated his fitness for the task.

It would be impossible to cover the whole field which offers itself to us, but we can at least appreciate the tremendous power which it is our sacred duty to guard, and we should be remiss in our duty to the nation if we ever allow that trust to be betrayed, either by unworthy action, or by allowing that weapon to become the property of those who have not earned the right to share in its use. Unity is essential, and since all parties claim to serve the country, it is surely not contrary to the belief or creed of any man to cast his weight with the comrades in whom he had enough confidence to join them in a life and death venture. We have it in our power to make a better Canada. It lies in our hands to combine to that purpose, but the weapon we wield is too powerful to utilize for any cause contrary to the principles upon which we first embarked in the great war. If once we betray that trust, then the country will assuredly remove our power for further ill, but as no soldier who has served his country in the field will ever do anything to sully the name of his comrades in the great venture, it is from the outside and not the inside that we must be ever on the alert.

What is the purport of this long screed then? It is to impress upon the soldier at once the necessity of realizing his responsibilities. These may be summarized as follows:—

1 The principles for which he fought were those which gave him the rights and privileges of a Canadian citizen.

2 The place which he won and held in the ranks of the Canadian Army amongst the best of Canada's sons.

3 That he has established his position as a citizen who not only appreciates the advantages of Canadian citizenship, but who considered them worth his life blood, should fate so decide.

4 That the fight which he commenced in the battlefield is still carried on in civil life, and that he forms a part of the organization which can, if it will, take its place in the forefront of that battle, and again lead it to victory.

5 That if he accepts and undertakes this immense task, it must be by a personal share in the enterprise. It is by the combined strength of the whole that results will accrue, and his support is as necessary as that of another.

6 That as long as the first principles are maintained, then the country will continue to place reliance in her soldier sons, and will be content to entrust her future in their hands. He will thus benefit indirectly, through the country which he continues to serve.

As this is serious thinking for many of our younger sons, I strongly urge them to think over the problem, and realize all it means to them and to the future generation, as they will live the longer to enjoy the benefits which such an organization might create.