

as a whole. We must avoid the temptation to seize so much for ourselves that that the nation and our fellow citizens will suffer or will be antagonized. Sacrifice is the keynote of our service here. It should continue to be our guiding principle in our citizen life.

The idea which is, perhaps, more prevalent than we imagine, that the soldier is to return to Canada to be forever pampered and petted, to be given free land and easy living, to be pensioned and supported, and to have jobs found for him, will be as disastrous to ourselves as it will be to the country as a whole. We have lived and fought like men out here. Are we going to become mollicoddles when we return to Canada? We have done no more than what we feel is the proper duty of every citizen. Why should we expect a greater reward? For those who have been disabled, who cannot carry on the good fight — it is certainly for us to see that they want for nothing. So also for those who were dependent upon our heroic dead. We shall accept with readiness and joy the honour of their support.

One thing which we must jealously guard against is the false hero — the old soldier who, having never been in France, or never in the firing line, returns with great stories of his prowess and adventures and so secures advantages over more deserving, but more modest men. Already there are many cases of this which I know of personally. Men who have been tragic failures here but whose record was not known elsewhere and who have returned to Canada or England and have been showered with the gifts of an honourable and sentimental enthusiasm. Nothing is more disgusting to the real soldier. We must take steps to create some bureau of information where the war records of every soldier may be found.

There are many other influences upon Canada which it would be interesting to consider if we had the time — such as the effect upon the relationship of the different racial elements in Canada — the effect upon the social, domestic, and religious life of the country — the effect upon Canadian literature, art and music. All these phases are bound to be profoundly modified by the war.

But I have probably spoken already at too great length. You have agreed with some of my prophecies, with others you have disagreed.

In this, I think, however, you will agree that we are here making the foundation stone of Canadian greatness and that we will build with all our hearts and all our might.

Much as we long to return to our Canadian homes — eager as we are to begin the work of reconstruction after the war — I think we are all one and all determined to see