

# THE VETERAN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE  
GREAT WAR VETERANS' ASSOCIATION  
OF CANADA

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## PRINCIPAL CURRIE

THE appointment of Sir Arthur Currie, former Commander of the Canadian Corps in the field, to the Principalship of McGill University has come doubtless as a surprise to many who believed that Dr. Currie's preference was for a military career. To those of us who served under him and who know something of his ideals, his appointment to a high educational position is but natural and fortunate. We are sure that the members of The Great War Veterans' Association will heartily congratulate their former leader on his selection to this important post, and they will likewise congratulate McGill University on securing him as its head.

Dr. Currie's appointment is a tribute to every returned man. It shows an appreciation on the part of educational institutions for what the war has taught those who have survived. That in itself is gratifying. It shows further that the returned men, as exemplified in their honoured leader, are now eager to devote their energies and their improved abilities to the constructive ways of peace. Like those whom he so splendidly led, Sir Arthur Currie was a civilian before the war. The circumstances of the wars of nations over which he had no control made him a temporary soldier. But he was a soldier only while he performed a distasteful task, and finished a hated piece of work, the purpose of which however was glorious, to save the civilization of the world. That task is done. The war is over. We are civilians again. Our former Corps Commander has decided to carry on the battle for civilization and for righteousness in the quiet ways of peace. There are four fields in which this battle may well be fought,—the pulpit, the press, the theatre, and the school and college. Our former leader has chosen the last named. The battle will tax his strength as it will tax the strength of every returned citizen. But with his great and proved qualities of head and heart, he will win in the coming days of peace as he won in France in the vanished days of war.

McGill University is peculiarly fitted to contribute largely to Canada's new national life, and to foster the new Canadian spirit. It is English in a French province; it is Protestant in a Roman Catholic community. Its founder was a Scotch Presbyterian who married a French-Canadian Roman Catholic wife. It has stood in the past for religious tolerance and for racial harmony. A Co-operating Theological College, composed of the four great Protestant bodies stands linked together in its shadow. It gave to Canada from the halls of its Scotch Presbyterian origin a French Roman Catholic Premier who did noble and unifying work for the harmonizing of races and peoples, for a broader, more united Canada.

More distinctly, perhaps, than any other university in our land, it is Canadian in its scope and in its influence. It is indeed fitting and fortunate that, on the threshold of a new era of peaceful re-construction when, we hope, militarism has been forever broken, it should now place at its head a great national figure who did so much to shatter and rout militarism in order that real education and civilization might not perish from the earth.

McGill's new Principal is a great Canadian, with Canadian ideals, ideals of tolerance and harmony, and with a clear vision of the value of democratic education, and of the righteousness that alone can make a nation great. He will have as students, for a few years at least, hundreds of returned men who like himself have come back to the path of peace with its new responsibilities. He will have on his staff a loyal band of young Canadian Professors, many of whom served under him overseas, and who will give him their best allegiance in peace as they did in war. Under his guidance, Canada expects great achievements from McGill University in building up her new national life. He has exchanged the rank of General for the title of Principal, he has doffed the soldier's uniform for the Professor's cap and gown, the time honoured symbols of peaceful civilization. He has brought honor to the one; he will do honor to the other. In his new and responsible undertaking the Veterans who served under him greet Principal Currie, and wish him all success.