

O'Clock Edition

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CANADA'S FAMOUS WAR LEADER, SIR ARTHUR W. CURRIE, BECOMES HEAD OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Sir Arthur Currie.



Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University.

CURRIE APPOINTMENT A NOTABLE EXAMPLE

London Times Says Boldness and Optimism Expected of Dominions.

By Canadian Associated Press.

LONDON, May 12.—The London Times in an article on the speech yesterday by Sir Lomer Gouin on the bright prospects of Quebec, says:

"The outlook of the Province of Quebec is boldly optimistic, but boldness and optimism are qualities we expect from our Dominions. They are as indigenous to the soil as the originality and breadth of conception which Canada herself has given us a notable example of in the proposed selection of the great military commander, Sir Arthur Currie, to direct the fortunes of McGill University."

PAYS NOTABLE TRIBUTE TO GENERAL CURRIE

By Canadian Associated Press.

MONTREAL, May 12.—A statement issued at McGill University, this afternoon, regarding the appointment of General Sir Arthur Currie as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University, pays tribute to his achievements as the general in command of the Canadian Army Corps won him a reputation unsurpassed, if not unrivalled, by that of any general in the British forces. They were accomplished, not alone by his skill as a soldier, but also by the patient, constructive and far-seeing qualities of a statesman with which he welded the Canadian units into an organization which we are proud to believe was the most efficient army corps at the front.

His war despatches were notable for their clearness and descriptive excellence, while his messages to the Canadian army were characterized by a loftiness of tone and a notable simplicity of utterance which attracted the admiration of all English-speaking peoples. The qualities which made him an incomparable organizer and leader at the front fit him pre-eminently for the headship of a great Canadian University.

"The appointment to the principalship of one, who, beyond six years' experience as a school teacher is without academic affiliations, may come as a surprise to some of the friends of McGill. But the governors were supported by the sanction of high educational authorities in inviting Sir Arthur to accept the position."

Sir Auckland Geddes Says It's the Best Possible Appointment.

That General Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., has accepted the position of principal and vice-chancellor of McGill University was officially announced on behalf of the Governors and Corporation of McGill by Dr. F. D. Adams, acting principal, at the university convocation exercises being held in Montreal this afternoon. One of the features of the convocation is the conferring of the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws upon the new principal.

Sir Arthur Currie now holds the position of Inspector-General of the Canadian forces and his acceptance of the McGill post will, of course, necessitate his retirement from the service of the Militia Department.

At militia headquarters it was felt that Sir Arthur might continue to act as Inspector General for some weeks as it is known that he has been giving his closest attention to the reorganization of the Canadian forces. His experience as commander-in-chief of the Canadian forces in the field rendered his work in the Militia Department of the greatest value.

The loss to the Department of Militia will, however, be a distinct gain to "old McGill" as Sir Arthur Currie's organizing ability will be of decided advantage in directing the affairs of Canada's greatest university.

Tribute From Geddes.

This feeling is admirably expressed in a letter from Sir Auckland C. Geddes, who was appointed principal of McGill, but who resigned owing to his appointment to the position of British Ambassador to the United States.

Writing to Mr. W. M. Birks, of the McGill Board of Governors, under date of Washington, May 7, Sir Auckland Geddes says:

My Dear Mr. Birks:—I am more glad than I can say to hear that the Board of Governors have decided to invite General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., to become Principal of McGill University. I do not believe that a better choice could possibly have been made.

Sir Arthur is, I know, a man of great organizing capacity and of strong personality, and the position which he must ever hold in the minds of all who went from Canada to serve in the great war makes him, in my opinion, without question, the best man who could have been found for the important post which I hope he will accept.

Up to now I have regretted that fate did not permit me to return to McGill; but now that I hear there is a chance of your getting Sir Arthur Currie as principal I feel that my not going there will prove to have been for the good of the university.

Yours very truly,

A. C. GEDDES.

British Embassy,
Washington, May 7, 1920.

A Born Canadian.

Lieut. General Sir Arthur W. Currie, commander of the Canadian Corps, in the war, was born in Napperton, Ontario, in 1875. He attended public school at his home near Strathroy where he also went to high school. After model school training he taught school at Sydney, N. S.

His army life began in 1897 when he joined Fifth Regiment of the Canadian Garrison Artillery as a private. Three years later he gained his commission as a gunner. In 1901 he married Miss Lucy Sophia Chatsworth-Musters.

While he was still a captain in the Fifth Regiment, he was made president of the British Columbia Rifle Association, and in 1909 Lt.-Col. of the Fifth Regiment. Later he was Lieut.-Col. of the 50th Regiment, Gordon Highlanders.

A few days after war was declared, Col. Currie took the Highlanders to Valcartier, and before the end of the year he was appointed a Brigadier-General in command of the Second Infantry Brigade.

As early as June, 1915, Sir John French commended his conduct on the battlefield, and in the autumn Brigadier-General Currie became Commander of the First Canadian Division. He was knighted in 1917, and in the same year, after having been Acting Commander, he was placed in command of the Canadian Corps. Sir Arthur Currie has been honored signally by many countries. Since his return to Canada in August, 1919, he has been Inspector-General of the Canadian militia.

May Hold Both Positions.

The Canadian Press says: "It is possible that General Currie may retain the inspector-generalship. Precedent for this may be found in the fact that E. W. Beatty is president of the Canadian Pacific Railway as well as chancellor of Queen's University."

"This is a very likely outcome of the acceptance by McGill of the principalship of McGill, which is expected to be announced at the dinner at which the inspector-general will be the guest of the faculty of McGill tonight. General Currie may occupy both positions, and the active direction of the Canadian militia would devolve on the chief of the general staff, which post may be taken over shortly by Brig.-Gen. J. H. MacBrien, D.S.O., on the retirement of General Gwatkir, who has taken over the direction of Canada's new militia air force."

General Sir Arthur Currie left for Montreal this morning. He is expected back in Ottawa on Friday.

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