

The army leaves politics to you, but in exercising those political privileges which are being conserved to you by the army, remember that you are exercising them not for yourselves alone but for the army as well. Do not be alarmed. A soldier cannot take part in politics in a political way. The uniform which he wears debars him as effectually as the gown of the minister or the robe of the priest. All three are sacrosanct.

The loyalty of the army is to the *de facto* king; its service to the *de facto* government. But king and government must justify themselves to the soldiers. The Canadian army is not composed of mercenaries or slaves. It leaves the civil government to civilians, but its eye is upon you. When you go into your secret place on the 17th of December, and cast a furtive ballot, what you do secretly will be proclaimed before God and the Army.

Remember, too, that whilst the army is merely an instrument of government, it is also the final weapon by which any government or system of government is eventually supported, or destroyed. All history is as simple as that. In our own history it has repeatedly happened that the soldier has not acquiesced quietly in civil arrangements. The civilian no more than the king has the right divine to govern wrong. On a memorable occasion a very great English civilian-soldier strode into the House of Parliament and to the speaker in his chair he said, "Come down out of that." To his men-at-arms he said, pointing to the mace, "Take away that bauble." These things are for your recollection.

Do not be too sure of the soldier's belief in democracy. He sees democracy at its worst in one of our allies. A democracy which cannot, as in the case of Russia, or will not, defend itself is to the soldier a thing of contempt. Canada has yet by sending instant succour to her own, to prove herself so worthy that the affection of her sons is not exposed to temptation. Those Canadians who went abroad as Americans are now Europeans, and Europe has many attractions, especially the attraction to that spot where one's fathers lie buried.