

BACK TO MUFTI.

By LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR ARTHUR W. CURRIE, G.C.M.G.,
K.C.B., *Commanding Canadian Corps.*

BACK TO MUFTI! How significant are these words!

To the survivors of the heroic phalanx, who, at the invitation or at the orders of the Government, put on khaki, left *Canada, home, and business*, and went to war, "back to mufti" means that their work as soldiers is completed.

By the definite victory they won, paying for it with their lives, their limbs, their health—by their unflinching devotion, generous sacrifice and splendid bravery, these khaki clad men have made *permanently secure* the freedom and prosperity of the country—they have written "CANADA" in bold, outstanding letters in the world's Roll of Honour—they have secured for Canada the right to speak as a *nation admired and respected* in the Concert of Nations.

The meaning of their victory can only be gained by the survey of all we stood to lose in the moral, political and material fields—in case of defeat.

Aside from the benefits accruing from victory, Canada will be enriched by the return to civil life of all those who had donned khaki and are now going back to mufti.

Of these men, some are crippled or of broken health and all of them were *temporarily estranged* from the stream of economic life of the nation. Not a few have lost, while away in the field, much, if not all, they possessed, through unforeseen agencies and possibly the inadequacy of our laws.

But the men, who for years have fought, suffered and tendered their lives daily on the battlefields of Europe *for Canada's sake*, with the "CANADA" badge on their shoulder and "CANADA" engraved in their hearts as their constant inspiration, can and will continue to uphold their Canadian ideal by becoming *useful Canadian* citizens. Their military life has been to them a complementary education. Their conception of citizenship has been enlarged so as to include *duties* besides privileges—of those duties they have performed the most sacred and most onerous—they have shed their blood in the defence of the State.

The dangers, sufferings and losses shared in common have lowered the barriers between classes, broadened the outlook on life and created an atmosphere of tolerance, mutual respect, understanding and sympathy.

The Citizen Soldiers have learned the value of individual initiative, backed by sound judgment, and they have also learned that organization and discipline, by measuring the task to the strength and capacity of the individual, by preventing waste and assuring mutual support, yields much greater results than scattered efforts.

The duly subordinated and co-operating powers which made them irresistible soldiers in the field are the very elements essential to good and progressive citizenship in a free country, and it belongs to Canada to turn to good account in the struggle for prosperity of the nation, the qualities acquired or developed by her sons in the field of battle.

Canada is resetting her house in order and readjusting her life for peaceful pursuits. This rearrangement, to be permanent and assure the stability essential to our young nation, must take into account the lessons of the war. The task will be facilitated by the unquestionable spirit of co-operation, tolerance and endeavour created at home and abroad by the sense of a common danger.

Under the stress of war, Canada and the rest of the world have learned that, when approached with courage, good-will and honesty, acceptable solutions can be found to most problems.

In dealing with national, social and economic matters, we must eradicate jealousy, sectional or class prejudices and all things which, without contributing to the greatness and prosperity of the nation, have in the past absorbed so much of our energies, obscured the issues and created strife and unhappiness.

The return to Canada of the fighting units of the Canadian Forces fresh from the field places our country in a favourable position to reconsider the organization for defence of the man, woman and industrial power.

A plan must be thought out which will derive the greatest possible profit for the nation from the knowledge gathered both in the battlefield and at home. This plan must ensure if, unfortunately, war should come again, the maximum military effort with the minimum disruption of economic life and productivity.

Our unpreparedness when war came caused an unquestionable waste of time, lives, and public funds.

The extemporizations and makeshift measures which had to be adopted, chiefly to gain time, must in the future be avoided.

Having attained the status of a nation, Canada must be prepared to face with courage and resolution the problems incumbent upon nations. Amongst those, preparedness for defence is and will remain the most essential.

The destruction of material and equipment, which has taken place on such a large scale during the war, must give an opportunity to industrial Canada to develop our great national resources and to reach and maintain a high volume of productivity.

The shortage of foodstuffs the world over, secures a continued demand for the products of the land.

Granting courage and foresight on the part of the legislators, and thanks to the energy, initiative and ready adaptability of our people, the transition from war to peace conditions will not weigh heavily upon Canada.

The re-absorption of our army into civil occupation will not present a difficult problem and will be greatly facilitated by the adoption of methods which will encourage and assist individuals to seek and find employment in the directions of which their several physical, mental and professional capacities can best be utilised.

It must be understood that the men crippled or disabled through wounds or sickness, contracted through the war, the dependants of these men as well as the dependants of our dead, will become the wards of our grateful nation in the measure required by circumstances.

At the Estaminet.

Bon soir, madame, and you, fair demoiselle,

Bon soir, ma chérie, comment allez-vous?

To your blue eyes I drink this sparkling wine
Which sells at demi-franc less quatre sous.

If you will parlez, I will drink no more
Vin blink or most pernicious French bière.

Let's to the garden go; ouvrez la porte
And promenons among the pommes-de-terre.

Ah non? Beaucoup travail ce soir?

Du lait, you sav. is waiting at the door.

Très bon pour soldat; here is my vaisselle—
Some more, ma chérie, otherwise encore.

Why scan you so this franc note of Bethune?

"No bon pour vous, beaucoup malade?" Nay, nay

This is no crown and anchor bill, sweet maid—

I got it here at this estaminet.

My cash—you compree cash—is tout finit;

But I should worry, ça ne fait rien—

To-morrow to the tranchées I partis,

Beaucoup bombardé by the Allemand.

Adieu, petite, I shall not revenir;

The Boche barrage will blow me in the air.

Toute suite I shall be blessé or napoo—

Peut-être—je ne sais pas—c'est la guerre!

A McM.