

FILE 146

MACBRIEN,

MAJ. GEN J.H.



Ottawa, May 18, 1925.

My dear Sir Arthur,-

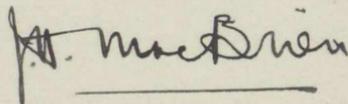
I appreciate more than I can express your letter of congratulation of May 15th, and my wife joins me in thanking you sincerely for your good wishes. I hope to have the pleasure of entertaining you and Lady Currie in Ottawa so that you may meet my wife.

I feel quite undeserving of the regard which you express for myself, but your kind remarks will act as an incentive to become worthy of same.

Again thanking you and Lady Currie for your good wishes, and looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday in Kingston,

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,



General Sir A. Currie,
GCMG., KCB.,
Montreal, P.Q.



Ottawa March 17, 1925.

My dear Sir Arthur,-

Thank you for your letter of March 14th. Friday, the 27th will be quite suitable for the meeting of the Advisory Board, and there should be sufficient time between trains to discuss the matter to be considered.

The necessary Transport warrant will be sent you by the Adjutant-General's Branch.

Yours sincerely,

J. W. MacBrien

General Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal, McGill University,
Montreal, P.Q.

P.S.

*I shall meet you at the
Station with motor.*

MacB.

December 19th, 1923.

My dear MacB.:-

Thank you very much for your letter of the 17th of December with reference to Carey. You have said just what I told him.

I am glad that you are back again and hope tjat some time soon I may see you, when you can tell me all that went on on the other side.

Most cordially reciprocating your good wishes, I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

Major-General J.H. MacBrien, C.M.G., D.S.O.,
Department of National Defence,
Ottawa.



CANADA

Department of National Defence

Ottawa, Canada,

December 17, 1923.

My dear Sir Arthur,

I have just returned from England and on arrival at the office this morning found your letter dated November 7, enclosing one from Brig.-General A.B. Carey, awaiting me.

I am afraid that this Officer's chances of getting a job in the Canadian Forces, or as Commandant of the R.M.C. at Kingston, are very remote but his name shall be borne in mind in the event of anything turning up.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, both to Lady Currie and yourself,

Believe me
Yours Sincerely,

J. H. MacBrien

General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.,
The Principal,
McGill University
Montreal.

September
Thirteenth
1922.

Major-General J.H.MacBrien, C.M.G., D.S.O.,
Department of Militia & Defence,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:-

In the absence of General Currie
I am forwarding to you the attached inquiry with
reference to one Samuel Edwin Curran.

Perhaps you would be good enough
to pass it on to the proper department.

Yours faithfully.

Principal's Secretary.

September
Thirteenth
1922.

Messrs. Loftis Bros. & Co.,
60-66 Madison Street,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sirs:-

In the absence of Sir Arthur Currie I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 7th making inquiry with reference to one Samuel Edwin Curran.

As it is over two years since General Currie severed his connection with the Department of Militia & Defence, I am forwarding your letter to the Chief of the General Staff, Militia Department, Ottawa, who may be able to give you the information you require.

Yours faithfully,

Principal's Secretary.

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Canadian Artillery Association

ARTILLERY SUMMARY No. 9

JANUARY, 1922

PART I.

PREVENTION OF WAR.

By MAJOR-GEN. J. H. MACBRIEN, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

In one of the most interesting lectures given before the Alberta Military Institute, Major-Gen. MacBrien, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Chief of the General Staff of Canada, asks: "Has an era of everlasting peace arrived?" and proceeds: To answer this question correctly, one must consider the following in order to arrive at a correct conclusion:—

One must study history and human nature.

We learn introspection by retrospection.

We must study cause and effect.

(a) What is war ?

(b) How is it caused ?

(c) What conditions should be existing in the world if everlasting peace has come ?

(d) Does history repeat itself ?

What is War ?

Sherman said: "War is hell."

War was once an invigorating and manly occupation in which chivalry had a fair field. Nowadays it has been robbed of its attractions through the progress of science and the application of chemical discoveries and mechanical devices. The late war was marked by horror and was a monstrosity of destructiveness and cruelty.

History shows that learning and prowess of arms excel and flourish in the same men in the same age.

Bacon says: "Learning does not soften men's minds nor make them less apt for the honour and exercise of arms."

Scientists destroyed the enemy wholesale while we professional soldiers had to do it on a small scale in comparison.

War is the continuation of politics by other means;

War is a political instrument; a continuation of political commerce;

The act of one government imposing its will upon another by force.

Disraeli said: "War is only an aggravation and not a cure of trouble between nations."

This is true as the Great War did not end wars as many hoped it would.

CAUSES OF WAR.

In by-gone days war was caused by the ladies, such as Helen of Troy; ladies now only cause domestic wars.

Again it has been caused by the ambitious kings and soldiers; religion, or conquest for commerce.

In the future they may be caused by governments seeking world power; competition for world commerce; or as an outlet for population.

War is the effect or action of one government trying to impose its will upon another—effect of natural ambitions.

Are the causes of war diseases ?

In order to eliminate war, its causes must be removed.

CONDITIONS REQUIRED FOR EVERLASTING WORLD PEACE.

- (a) Brotherly love between individuals and nations; police forces dispensed with; law of land.
- (b) Nations disarming or disarmed and manufacture of warlike stores abandoned; international laws.
- (c) League of Nations settling disputes.
- (d) Complete change in human nature; to fight is natural for man and beast—up to the present it has been survival of the fittest in all animal life. Right and Justice should rule the world, but as yet they do not.

ARE THESE CONDITIONS FULFILLED ?

Late war furnished ample evidence that man's primitive instincts have not materially altered since the stone age.

More devilish cruelty by Germans than ever before; Joy of killing Boche ! Many remember it.

Late war was more than a momentary triumph of primitive powers of evil over the goodness of God.

Does world situation reassure us ? The reverse.

Austria-Germany-Russia menace. U.S.A. and Japan. German revenge on France.

German air menace is now greater than ever before in its potential means of destruction.

CAN WAR BE PREVENTED.

(a) It is the essence of Christianity to believe in the gradual improvement of the human race and the ultimate elimination of the cruel and bloody evil of war.

(b) Optimists, Pacifists, Advocates of unpreparedness and disarmament are optimists, if sincere; if not sincere, they are probably conscientious objectors.

Definition of optimists: A man who fell from a 20-story building was once heard to say as he passed the 10th story—"Thank Heaven I am all right so far."

Now, the greatest optimist in the world is the ostrich; she hides her head and believes she cannot be seen because she cannot see her enemy or her danger.

Job said: "The ostrich is without fear because God hath deprived her of wisdom; neither hath he imparted to her understanding."

I should like to read Job's comment upon the present advocates of unpreparedness.

(c) Study of human nature. History and world conditions lead me to the conclusion that war will recur.

Banishing of war is more than casting off an ancient and barbaric tradition; calls for establishment of conditions enumerated.

CAN THE LIKELIHOOD OF WAR BE REDUCED ?

I think so.

It is a matter of insurance. Surest method of maintaining peace lies in a strong defensive policy against war.

MEASURES WHICH WILL DELAY WAR.

(a) Wise treaties. Definite alliance with France and Belgium might have prevented the Great War.

Close alliance between the branches of the Anglo-Saxon race.

(b) Support league of nations. World super government. Membership of league embodies acceptance of the idea that war is one of the greatest evils and dangers to our civilization.

(c) Strongly support the inner league of nations, which is my name for British Empire. Canada is keystone of empire.

Let us resolve to be the strongest link in the chain composed of kinship and blood which binds the empire together. Except perhaps for our potential strength we are the weakest. Life in various parts of the empire has made me an ardent imperialist and I hope a better Canadian than I ever was before.

(d) Raise the physique and morale of our population. The future of Canada and the empire is in the hands of our children—therefore advocate:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. National Physical training in schools. | } | Health, patriotism, leadership, selfcontrol, honour. |
| 2. National boy scout training. | | |
| 3. National cadet training. | } | |
| 4. National training in good citizenship. | | |

5. Definite plans for selection and assimilation of immigrants, churches, schools, societies, service for Canada.

Take a pride in being British; not like the mule which has no pride in ancestry nor hope from posterity.

ALIENS IN CANADA.

There are 400,000 aliens in Ontario alone and a large number in other provinces.

(e) Spread knowledge of war. Canadian public do not yet realize what war means except through loss of relatives; those who understand war and its terrible results will help delay its coming.

Visit the devastated area—help us resolve to prevent Canada having devastated area.

(f) Maintain an adequate defence force. I shall deal with this later. A citizen army is a bulwark of peace.

(g) Thorough peace organization of the nation. Sound peace strategy, so that should war come our full strength may be put into the struggle at the right time and the right place. This is our peace strategy.

Loss of initiative may mean loss of war. War is a gigantic business proposition in which nation (or nations) is pitted against nation, not army vs. army alone. There is a place for everybody and everybody must be in his right place.

(h) Patriotic societies, defence league, to be created. Needed in peace as in war. Let this society be known as one which stands for teaching of patriotism.

Does history repeat itself? Yes.

Sun Tzu, Chinaman, 600 B.C., wrote: "The art of war teaches us to rely not on the likelihood of the enemy not coming, but on our readiness to receive him; not on the chance of his not coming to attack us, but rather on the fact that we have made our position unassailable."

The military defence system of the empire should be a democratic, unselfish preparedness in which each nation bears its fair share of the burden of taxes and service.

AN ADEQUATE DEFENCE FORCE.

A citizen defence force is a bulwark of peace.

(a) The *raison d'être* for which armed forces exist is "by force to re-establish peace where the general body of citizens or statesmen chosen to represent them, have brought about a state of war."

(b) Size is determined by: World conditions; Our stake in the empire; Value we place upon our homes and country; population and wealth.

(c) Composition.

1. Navy: Cannot bring a war to a decision alone. Trafalgar, the most decisive naval victory ever gained, was fought ten years before the termination of the war with Napoleon.
2. Army: Soldiers who are citizens first.
3. Air force: As complement to navy and army. Exploration; survey; commerce; transportation.
4. Organization of population and resources.

Coal fuel is an important factor in defence of Canada.

Defence force requirements should be co-ordinated by a ministry of defence with defence staff.

(d) Four essentials for efficient citizen defence force.

1. Highly trained staff; corps of well trained officers; constant changes in war.
2. Proper numbers, pro rata with population: "God on side of the big battalions."—Napoleon.
3. Sufficient training—national crime to send youth to war untrained.
4. Adequate supply of war material—deficiencies paid for in lives.

TRAINING.

Patriotic zeal alone cannot cope with a disciplined force.

Any attempt to employ war levies in a military emergency would result in the annihilation of the men of whom they are composed.

"It never troubles the wolf how many sheep there be."

Training takes time and money. War does also, but costs lives in addition. Military training saves lives in peace and in war.

Military training prepares our young manhood for the privilege and obligation of serving their country in time of need and make them better citizens and elevate the physical, mental and moral standard of the Canadian people.

Every able bodied youth has the right to demand physical and mental training of his country.

War is seldom a matter of choice.

If we don't fight we pay;

If we do fight we must win or pay.

To win we must be able to fight as soldiers; not as a mob. Hence necessity for an adequate defence force.

(e) Some advocates of unpreparedness say we have sufficient trained men in the country and that we should have a naval and military holiday for a term of years. That is tantamount to saying "if a war occurs, let the veterans do it; they know how."

(f) Value of a strong or moderate sized defence force. Many military experts agree that had the British empire been in a position to put 500,000 trained men in the field in 1914, within a month of the outbreak of war, that Germany would have avoided war. Result: thirty million casualties saved. Germans also tried to take advantage of and counted on the lack of organization within the empire.

(g) If the instrument for the preservation and restoration of peace is not obsolete, then no one can claim to be a good citizen of Canada unless he does his best to see that our citizen defence force is efficient and sufficient if ever and where ever it is needed. Unpreparedness will never keep us out of war, but preparedness may. The world is gradually contracting due to advances in science of transportation and geographical position is no longer much protection. Protection afforded us by Great Britain at every stage of our development—outposts of empire protected by Union Jack.

There is no strategy, or tactics, sufficiently good to enable 9,000,000 Canadians to successfully defend three and one-half million square miles of territory, so we must be dependent still on other parts of empire, but organization and training will reduce our dependence.

PRESERVATION OF PEACE OR DELAYING OF WAR IS A MATTER OF INSURANCE:
MUTUAL BENEFIT SOCIETY.

- (a) Premium on your policy can be paid in two ways:
Service—How much time should we and our sons give for country and empire?
Taxes—How much should we pay?

MORE SERVICE, LESS TAXES.

(b) Comparison with other parts of empire and United States: United Kingdom, \$22.39 per capita; Australia and New Zealand, \$6.13 and \$3.80 respectively; Canada, \$2.15; United States, \$13.13 and expenditure of individual states.

(c) It is my duty to say that an efficient defensive force with voluntary but paid (on paid basis) personnel cannot be produced for the money—12 days' training per annum.

(d) Safety and economy must be constantly balanced.

(e) Will our self respect allow us to depend upon the other parts of the empire as much in the future as in the past?

(f) The expense of maintaining an efficient C. D. F. is trifling compared to a single item of war expenditure.

SHOULD CANADA AND BRITISH EMPIRE DISARM?

No disarmament would be of any value unless it was general. For one nation to leave itself exposed to attack while others are preparing the engines of war would be folly and the greatest danger to the peace of the world that can be imagined. The history of the British race shows that we invariably have failed to profit by the experience of war; let us prevent history repeating itself in this respect. Do not listen to advocates of disarmament unless you are certain war will not recur. Do you think we should be left long to enjoy our natural resources if it were not for our ability to defend ourselves and on account of protection of the Union Jack?

WHAT OUR NEIGHBORS THINK.

The senate naval committee of U. S. A. report. "The lessons of history teach us with indisputable truth that we cannot afford to depend for the maintenance of our rights and the defence of the lives and commerce of our citizens upon the mercy, generosity or good-will of other powers with rival and conflicting interests and ambitions. Therefore, the U. S. should have a navy at least equal to any other powers."

"Whenever a nation becomes excessively opulent and arrogant, at the same time being without military power to defend its opulence or support its arrogance, it is in a dangerous position." "National existence is not a haphazard passage of a people from an unknown beginning to an unforeseen end."—Homer Lea.

Some say: "We are here because we are here"—put here by deeds of our ancestors.

And they understand too late that it is the law of Heaven that the world is given to the hardy and self denying, whilst he who wouldst escape the duties of manhood will soon be stripped of the pride, the wealth, and the power which are the prizes which manhood brings." Biology and history show that the weak go to the wall. Let us be strong!

HOW DID THE GREAT WAR FIND CANADA?

Willing and anxious to do her duty, but unable to through lack of preparation. Unprepared in every way, or not completely prepared in any branch or department. The high percentage of manhood physically unfit.

The lack of preparation found every Canadian unit, formation and staff improvised; equipment unsuitable and insufficient; good material wasted in early stages of war through voluntary system of recruiting. No matter what system appertains in peace, in war we must have national service from the outset.

UPON WHOM DOES THE BLAME REST?

Upon the Canadian people; blame cannot be put upon government. In most countries governments are worthy of the people.

HOW WAS IT THAT CANADIANS DID SO WELL WHEN THEY STARTED BADLY HANDICAPPED?

Militia of Canada gave personnel; up-to-date equipment secured from Motherland; protected by Motherland until war troops were organized and trained; experienced commanders and staff officers lent us by the Motherland; attachment for training to British units. Canadian national aptitude for war, resourceful, observant.

Debt we owe Lord Byng. He developed our Canadian leaders, Sir Arthur Currie; developed our natural aptitude for war; Canada owes much to him; Canadian Staff officers developed by him lent to British. The longer the war went on the better grew the reputation of Canadians as good soldiers. Esteem of allies and fellow British was most gratifying.

Canada's effort compared to New Zealand and Australia—we come third, in point of numbers in relation to population.

Are we a full grown nation and able to become a full active partner in the empire and shoulder our fair share of the preparation necessary for the preservation of peace—with no holding back?

WHAT WE HAVE TO FIGHT FOR IN FUTURE.

Liberty—Dear to all Britishers and right to develop Canada within the empire; to trade. Integrity of empire; Assistance to threatened sister nations. Let there be no secession.

“Be welded each and all unto one Imperial Whole;
One with Britain heart and soul;
One life, one flag, one throne,
Britons hold your own! (Tennyson).

Protection of weak nations.

Preservation of honour.

Disastrous as war is there are things worse: Bolshevism; loss of liberty; loss of honour; disintegration of empire.

SECURE THE PEACE.

I give you the choice of two mottoes for you to teach your sons.

1. I serve (my country).
2. Be prepared (to do your duty). Boy Scout motto.

CO-MISSIONARIES OR INSURANCE AGENTS.

I have come here to-day with the object of enlisting you as co-insurance agents. Help me by preaching the gospel of preparedness. Use your influence.

Fulfil our debt of honour to our gallant dead.

They fought and died in the belief that they were fighting the Great War which was to firmly establish peace.

They won the victory, but the Great War did not bring peace so their work is unfinished.

Let us consider ourselves dedicated to the great task which lies before us—that of securing the peace, and so be true to our dead and ensure that they have not died in vain.

On Fame's Eternal Camping ground,
Their silent tents are spread;
While Glory guards, with solemn round,
The bivouacs of the dead."

ALBERTA MILITARY INSTITUTE JOURNAL,

PART II.

THE NEW ARMY SIXTEEN-INCH GUN.

Exhibition Firing of the Most Powerful Coast Defence Gun in Existence.

PROOF FIRING OF SIXTEEN-INCH ARMY GUN.

The first exhibit was the most spectacular and, indeed, the most important of all. It was the proof-firing of two 16-inch Army guns, weapons which from time to time have already been discussed in our columns. The first of these was the firing with full charge of a shell from the 16-inch coast-defence disappearing gun. The second was the firing of a similar piece in the new barbette mount. Both of these guns have been designed for our coast fortifications at home and abroad, of which they will form the most important and most powerful elements.

THE PROJECTILE.

The 16-inch projectile is spectacularly big both as to height and bulk. Its exact weight is 2340 pounds. It is provided with a false nose made of light steel, which is screwed on at the forward end of the projectile, and is stream-lined so as to afford the easiest possible entrance for the shell as it passes through the atmosphere. Within the false nose is the blunter actual nose of the shell, which is provided with a cap of soft steel to assist the shell in shattering the extremely hard face of modern armour, so as to open the way for the body of the shell itself. Just how effective the projectile is as an armour piercer may be judged when it will clearly pierce 14-inch armour plate at extreme range.

THE RIFLE.

It can be readily understood that to impart a velocity of over half a mile a second to a shell weighing over a ton calls for a rifle of very exceptional dimensions and power. The 16-inch rifle which was built at the Watervliet Arsenal from designs drawn up by the officers of our Army Ordnance, is so well proportioned that the guests at the recent exhibition, although they were all technical men and familiar with large mechanical constructions, found it difficult to realize that this gun barrel was within a foot of being 70 feet in length, that its bore was 16 inches, and that it weighed 340,000 pounds or 170 American short tons. Another surprise came when

the 850 pounds of powder which constitute a charge was fired. Both the burst of flame from the muzzle and such brown smoke as there is when "smokeless" powder is fired, were up to expectations, but the report was surprisingly "soft" for a charge of these great dimensions. However, this was not surprising to those of us who are familiar with proving ground effects. The writer remembers that when he was on board the "North Dakota" during battle practice, the sharp crack of a 5-inch gun was more severe on the ear drums than the deeper-noted report when the 12-inch gun was fired.

The barbette mount functioned satisfactorily, and the heavy rifle swung back and down into the loading position with the same smoothness and absence of jar which has marked the smaller mounts for guns of 8-, 10- and 12-inch caliber. The roof-like structure is an inclined shield of sufficient thickness to protect the gun attachment from small shell fragments and machine-gun fire.

THE SIXTEEN-INCH BARBETTE GUN.

Not far from the 16-inch disappearing gun was a sister rifle on a barbette mount. In the disappearing mount, the gun, upon discharge, is thrust back and down until she is below the parapet and sheltered from direct fire. In a barbette mount the rifle is permanently above the face of the parapet. The gun and its carriage rotate upon a massive turntable, consisting of a base ring bolted to the concrete foundation, and an upper ring known as the "Racer," between which are 42 live rollers. A pinion attached to the racer engages a circular rack bolted to the outside of the base ring. By this means and by means of a micrometer index which is carried on the racer, the gun and its carriage can be laid in direction with an accuracy of 1/200 of a degree. An electric motor and hydraulic speed gear permit the carriage to be traversed by power.

Bolted to the movable platform, one on each side, are two cast steel side frames in which rest the trunnions, the elevation of the gun being controlled by circular racks bolted to the right and left sides of the cradle. The range of elevation is from minus 7 to plus 65 degrees. The cradle forms a circular sleeve in which the gun recoils, and this cradle contains or supports all the mechanism which controls the recoil and counter-recoil of the gun. The cradle is a 50-ton casting, the inside of which is very accurately bored to fit the outside contour of the gun. The actual bearing on which the gun slides consists of a number of circular bronze strips bolted to the inside of the cradle. The gun and cradle, which together weigh 550,000 pounds, are so accurately balanced on the trunnions that one man, by hand power, can easily set the gun at any angle of elevation. Elevation, normally, is effected by electric motors. The recoil is controlled by four oil cylinders, cast integrally with and around the cradle. The energy of the recoil is dissipated by throttling the oil with which the recoil cylinders are filled, by causing it to pass from the rear to the front of the piston through grooves cut in the wall of the cylinders. There is also a counter-recoil mechanism which serves to return the gun gently into battery—that is, into firing position. When the gun is laid at an elevation of 45 degrees, it has a range of 50,000 yards, or nearly thirty land miles. Even at this great range the shell will pass through the heaviest armour afloat in any foreign navy.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN,
December, 1921.

C. H. L. SHARMAN,
Colonel,
Secretary and Treasurer

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Ottawa

12-1-22

My dear Sir Arthur :-

I desire to thank you for your letter of sympathy. You were right when you said it was the most difficult thing I ever had to face. If it were not for the precious children, the future would be entirely unwanted by me. As it is I am trying to gather sufficient courage & self control to carry on with the routine work of every-day life.

I shall write you again soon
concerning our approaching
re-organization.

Again I thank Lady Furne
and you for the sympathy
extended to me and which
is deeply appreciated.

I remain

Yours very sincerely

J. Mackenzie

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E.H.



Department of Militia and Defence,

Ottawa, Canada,

June 8th, 1921.

My dear Sir Arthur,-

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of June the 7th, enclosing a communication from Lieutenant H.A.Cragg, respecting the use of cameras in war. I think that a considerable use could be made of cameras in the way he suggests. We were taught this before the late war, but when it arrived, the use of cameras was forbidden.

My eyes are now practically well, thank you, and I regret very much having missed the Board of Visitors at Kingston. I shall be glad to get your letter regarding it.

I have been very much disappointed in not going over to the Imperial Conference. The Premier is apparently trying to limit the scope of the present Conference, in order to suit his special purposes. It is true, that at the beginning, the Conference was supposed to be a Premiers' Conference, with a limited number of subjects for discussion, but it grew into what is really a full-fledged Imperial Conference, and this has been acceptable, apparently, to everyone except Mr. Meighen, who has gone to England unattended by any advisers. As he is a young man yet, he will probably live long enough to see another war, and perhaps he will then realize more fully the importance of making preparations for defence many years in advance.

I hope to be in Montreal on Saturday

a few
(the 11th) and shall probably go to the races
for ~~2~~ hours in the afternoon.

I trust that you and Lady Currie will
have a most pleasant trip to England, with a
safe return.

With kindest regards to you both, in
which my wife joins me,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

General Sir Arthur Currie,
GCMG., KCB.,
President, McGill University,
Montreal,
P.Q.

J. H. MacBrien

April
Eighteenth
1921.

Major-General J.H. MacBrien,
Dept. of Militia & Defense,
Ottawa, Ont.

My dear MacB.:-

Will you please pass this over to
Willis to attend to for me. I would write to him
personally, but I have not yet heard whether he
has returned from his visit to California.

What I want him to do for me is
to find out whether I must pay income tax on all
the pay I received from the Militia Department
last year, and if so, how much has the Militia
Department reported to the Finance Department as
having been paid to me.

I hope that everything goes well
with you.

With all good wishes, I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

43

October
Nineteenth
1920.

Major-General J.H. MacBrien,
Department of Militia & Defence,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 13th October addressed to Sir Arthur Currie, Principal of this University.

At present the Principal is absent from the city on a trip to Western Canada, which will take him as far as the coast. He expects to return to Montreal about the 6th of November, when your letter will be brought to his attention.

Yours very truly,

Principal's Secretary.



HQ. 650-5-20.

Department of Militia and Defence,

Ottawa, Canada,

13th. October 1920.

Dear Sir Arthur,

Some little time ago I sent you the reports of the various branches of the General Staff which are to be included in the Annual Report of the Militia Council and thought that perhaps you would like to write the covering report as the matters dealt with related to the period when you were Inspector General. I have just received a reminder from the Deputy Minister stating that as the report is to be printed before Parliament meets he would like to have it at an early date. I should be grateful if you could let me have your covering report in the course of the next week or so.

I am just leaving for a short tour to London, Ont., and Kingston. I shall be back next Wednesday.

With kind regards,

Believe me,
Yours sincerely,

General Sir A.W. Currie,
GCMG., KCB., etc. etc.

J. A. MacBrien

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E.H.



Department of Militia and Defence,

Ottawa, Canada,

September 28th, 1920.

Dear Sir Arthur,-

I have received your letter of the 27th instant with enclosures from Major Alistair Fraser respecting the pension drawn by the widow of Lieutenant G. Harvey Rochester.

The matter brought forward will receive immediate attention, and the decision made will be sent to Major Fraser.

Trusting you are enjoying good health,

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

J. H. MacBrien

General Sir Arthur Currie,
GCMG., KCB.,
Principal, McGill University,
Montreal,
P.Q.

September
Twentieth
1920.

Major-General J.H. MacBrien,
Department Militia & Defence,
Ottawa.

My dear MacB.-

I have your letter of the 16th September with reference to the appointment of Forbes to the permanent force. Let me say that a few days ago Elmsley wrote to me on the same matter.

Regarding a choice between Scroggie and Forbes for any vacancy in the permanent force my knowledge of the two officers would make me recommend Scroggie, for of the latter officer I cannot speak too highly. He was one of the most outstanding younger officers in the Canadian Corps, a real example and inspiration to other officers and to his men. I had not heard of Forbes' drinking habits and can only conclude that they developed since he left the front.

Regarding the situation of Scroggie and Jeffreys, I wish to tell you of a conversation I had last Saturday evening with Mr. Ballantyne, whom I know is now Acting Minister of Militia. Ballantyne recently visited the coast and while there paid a call on the Naval College. It so happens that I tried to get the Mathematical Master of the Naval College as an Assistant Professor in Mathematics at this University. Richardson, for that was the name of the Master sought, had the matter under consideration at the time of Ballantyne's visit. I did not succeed in getting Richardson because of Ballantyne's action on his return to Ottawa. The salary of men like Richardson at the Royal Naval Colleges had been under the control of the Civil Service Commission. Ballantyne told me that on his return to Ottawa he notified the Civil Service Commission that as far as the teachers at the Naval Colleges were

Maj.-Gen. J.H.MacBrien,

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concerned the Civil Service Commission would no longer have any control over their salaries, and that he proposed to give these men Naval rating. His Deputy raised many objections to such a suggestion, but Ballantyne says he is determined to have his way, and that he will not submit to the salaries of the teachers in the Naval Colleges being settled by this financial firm which is giving advice to the Civil Service Commission.

I immediately suggested that while he was acting Minister of Militia, he would make the same arrangement as far as the Military College is concerned. No doubt he will receive the same objections from the Deputy at Militia Headquarters, for these civilians try, we know, to keep as much as possible under their control.

So soon as Ballantyne's plans regarding the teachers of the Naval Colleges are approved by Privy Council, I think you ought to make immediate representations to have the teachers at the Military Colleges, particularly those who are officers, placed under the Militia Department's Regulations for pay.

With all good wishes, I am,

Ever yours faithfully,



Department of Militia and Defence,

Ottawa, Canada,

16 September, 1920.

Dear Sir Arthur,

I have been intending to write to you for some time with reference to the appointment of Forbes to the Permanent Force. The situation at present is that Malone has returned to duty with the ~~Cheshires~~ *Patricias*, it is possible and likely that his services will be dispensed with within the next few weeks, but at present there is no vacancy to which Forbes can be appointed. In case Malone is dismissed or allowed to resign, I think it is a choice between Scroggie and Forbes for the vacancy of captain in the Patricias'. There appears to be no other place where Scroggie can be given a permanent home so it would appear to be a choice of the two. There seems to be little doubt that Scroggie is much the preferable, I have heard several reports concerning Forbes as to his personal habits not being good in that he drinks too heavily, although I understand that his work in the field was excellent.

I thought I would write to you on this matter as there will be in all probability a delay before any definite action can be taken. A ruling has been given by the acting Minister that no submissions are to be dealt with by Militia Council which entail expenditure of any great amount or new appointments until the return of Mr. Guthrie from England which will be in about five weeks time.

Everything goes fairly well here. Elmsley is fitting into his new position nicely and Ashton is busy taking over Q.M.G. work. Morrison has gone to the Coast.

I trust that you are enjoying your new work and that you and your family are enjoying good health.

With kind regards

Yours very Sincerely,

General

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

J. H. Mackenzie



Department of Militia and Defence,

Ottawa, Canada,

18 August, 1920.

My dear Sir Arthur,

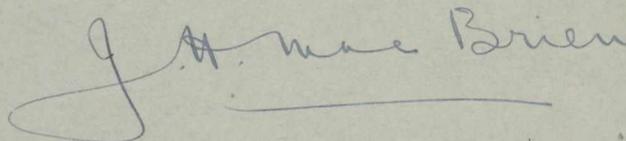
I beg to acknowledge receipt of your several letters of August 17 and shall give my immediate attention to the matters referred to.

I was sorry not to have more time with you during your recent visit but trust that we shall meet from time to time so that I may have the benefit of your advice. I hope when you next visit Ottawa that my family will be in such a state of health and, I hope, sufficiently settled so that we may have the pleasure of a visit from yourself and Lady Currie.

I desire to take this opportunity of thanking you for all that you have done for me in the past, both during the war and since its termination. I shall never forget the consideration which you have always shown me. I wish both Lady Currie and yourself a very happy and successful life in Montreal. Your environment there will be much more conducive to a happy life than this in Ottawa where intrigue is the order of the day.

Wishing you all possible success in your appointment

Believe me,
Yours most Sincerely,



General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.,
Principal,
McGill University.

August
Seventeenth
1920.

Major-General J.H. Macbrien,
Chief of Staff,
Militia Department,
Ottawa.

My dear MacB:-

When speaking to you last Saturday in Ottawa I do not think I mentioned the case of Major J.W. Forbes, D.S.O., formerly of the 15th Battalion.

He has sent in several applications for employment in the permanent force. He is an officer whom I can strongly recommend, having gathered a most favourable impression of his ability and personality while he was an officer with the 15th. I consider him as quite capable of commanding a battalion in the field.

You may remember that Malone, formerly of the same battalion, was at one time granted a commission in the Pats, but on his reporting to that unit, he acted so strangely that some doubts arose as to his sanity. I do not know whether Malone's case has yet been finally disposed of, but if he has been permitted to resign and if it is the intention to fill the vacancy, I would like to see Forbes receive the appointment. Of course, I realize that O'Connor is now a member of the Pats, and it may be that your Department will consider it advisable to send him back for duty with his Regiment, and in that case he could take the place left vacant by Malone's resignation.

I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed having a chat with you on Saturday.

Ever yours faithfully,

August
Seventeenth
1920.

Major-General J.H. Macbrien,
Department of Militia & Defence,
Ottawa.

My dear Macbrien:-

I am enclosing herewith
for filing purposes a letter received from
Brigadier-General Ross, G.O.C., M.D. No. 11.

Ever yours faithfully,

August
Seventeenth
1920.

Major-General J.H. Macbrien,
Dept. of Militia & Defence,
Ottawa.

My dear Macbrien:-

Attached herewith is a letter forwarded to me at Ottawa from Dr. Tamblyn.

When we filled the establishment of the R.C.A.V.C., it is my impression we decided to nominate Tamblyn as the Administrative Officer of the Corps and that it was our intention to bring him to some district near Ottawa, where he would not only act as Senior Veterinary Officer, but where he would be in close touch with Headquarters.

I did not follow the affairs of the Veterinary Corps very closely, but I am a little surprised that Tamblyn has not been moved before this.

Will you take the matter up with General Birstall and let Tamblyn know what definite decision has been reached.

Ever yours faithfully,

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August
Sixth
1920.

Major-General J.H. Macbrien, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.,
Militia Department,
Ottawa.

My dear Mae B:-

I am enclosing herewith a personal letter received from Major Wolfe-Merton, an officer whom, no doubt, you remember very well.

I suggest that you take it up with Regan, and I know you will see that he gets a square deal.

I shall see you the latter part of next week. I intended to go to Ottawa this week, but decided instead to visit my Mother and kiddies, whom I have not seen for some months.

Ever yours faithfully,