

**FILE 814**

**PRINCIPAL:**

**CURRIE'S APPOINTMENT**

**1920**

### McGILL'S NEW PRINCIPAL

Startling, at first sight, in its very audacity and boldness, is the action of the Governors of McGill University in the appointment of the new Principal. The selection for such a post is one who at that time was not the holder of a degree of any kind, and whose reputation,—distinguished as it is—was won entirely in military service, must have struck many as a good deal of an experiment. That it is not generally so regarded, however is evident from the manner in which the appointment has been received by thoughtful men and representative organs of public opinion upon both sides of the Atlantic. Canadian originality has succeeded in teaching the world that personal qualities of tact, judgment, presence of mind and a capacity for leadership may take the place of what had hitherto been considered an absolutely necessary course of professional training. Of this fact, almost everyone of the Canadian generals who attained distinction in the Great War,—including the new Principal of McGill himself,—is a good illustration. It was his possession of personal qualities such as above mentioned, and not any professional military training, that made of General Currie a great soldier, and the secret of his selection as the new head of one of our leading universities is a belief on the part of the Governors of McGill that the same qualities will suffice to ensure his success in his new charge. It is natural that the appointment should have created the surprise in England announced by cable, for our brothers in the Old Land are not, or at least were not before the war, quite as accustomed as we are to what the Times refers to, in this connection, as the "boldness and optimism" which "are qualities we expect from our virile Dominions," and which our contemporary rightly says, "are as indigenous to their soil as originality. The breadth of conception of which Canada has herself recently given us in the notable example by the selection of her great military commander Currie to direct the fortunes of McGill University." Not all the British educationalists of renown view Principal Currie's appointment in the light of an experiment however, for he was singled out and his appointment enthusiastically urged by his immediate predecessor in nomination to the office, Sir Auckland Geddes, the suggestion having been emphatically approved by the Master of Balliol and Professor W. G. S. Adams, Fellow of All Souls, Oxford, who rank with the most eminent educationalists in the British Isles. The Telegraph joins the many friends and admirers of Sir Arthur Currie in congratulating him upon his new appointment and in hoping, with Dean Adams that the new Principal may prove as successful a leader of Canadian youth in peace as he has proved himself to be in the time of war.

### A NEW LEADER FOR OLD MCGILL.

THE qualities which made Major-General Sir Arthur Currie a great soldier guarantee his success as Principal of McGill University.

Though a student of the arts of war he was not a professional soldier, but his organizing genius, his strong and high-principled personality, his force of character, and his ability to fire his men with his own enthusiasm and determination, gained him the leadership of one of the hardest fighting units in the British Expeditionary Forces, and made that corps the spear-head of the final offensive that smashed through the German lines to victory.

McGill needs the same qualities in its leader. He is not a professional pedagogue—had until today no University degree—but that spirit and personality which made him and his fighting corps so famous will serve him equally well in his new command.

Education is a continual warfare against the powers of darkness and ignorance and narrowness. Victory is the price of courage and stern mental discipline and a vision that sees over the immediate trenches. General Currie has this vision, this instinct of discipline, this courage, and with it an idealism of Old Testament intensity and supreme scorn for outworn, red-tape rules and inhibitions.

The war has given us a new world, with new problems and novel tasks. The old instruments of peaceful progress must adapt themselves to the situation or be thrust aside. Under General Currie we believe that McGill will not fail to meet its obligations to our reconstructed society, but will lengthen its cords and strengthen its stakes so that under its inspiring shelter may be built a new army that shall win great victories for the honor of our country and the glory of the old college.

## McGill's New Head

THE announcement of the appointment of General Sir Arthur Currie as principal of McGill University on the day he was made Doctor of Laws at the convocation was peculiarly apposite. But if the new doctor makes his mark at this great seat of learning, as he doubtless will, it will be as an administrator, which is just the capacity in which a new head is needed. He has shown himself to be one of the great men of the day, and probably there is no position in which his genius for inspiration, his lofty ideals and his large humanity could find better expression than as the principal of Canada's leading educational institution.

It turns out that General Currie was the nominee of Sir Auckland Geddes, who had resigned the post for the purpose of becoming British Ambassador at Washington, and was endorsed in this recommendation by exalted collegians in England.

In coming to McGill Dr. Currie will bring to the discharge of his new duties those sterling qualities which have made him successful in other fields of the world's work. It is as an organizer and leader that he will best advance the important interests placed in his hands by the Board of Governors.

Ottawa, Morning Citizen - May 13, 1920.

### EXPRESS PLEASURE GEN. CURRIE'S POST

Ottawa Command of the G.W.V.A. Adopt Resolution Voicing Approval.

At the executive meeting of the Ottawa Command G.W.V.A., held in the board room of the clubhouse, Cartier street, last night, the following resolution was unanimously passed:

"That this executive of the G. W. V. A. Ottawa branch in regular session assembled, notes with the greatest pleasure the appointment of General Sir Arthur Currie, late commander of the C.E.F., to the post of principal and vice-chancellor of McGill University, Montreal.

"It feels that the general's remarkable powers of organization will prove of the utmost benefit to the furtherance of the educational facilities of this university and begs to congratulate the faculty on their foresight in electing this distinguished Canadian to this eminently responsible post."

Col. J. W. Margeson attended the meeting, but the chair was occupied by the acting president, Comrade W. P. Grant.

It was decided to accede to the proposal of the Ontario provincial secretary, Comrade W. Turley, Toronto, that he, and the provincial president, be permitted to address the semi-monthly business meeting of the Ottawa command next Monday night, giving particulars of the work of the provincial command.

An appeal for support to the Canadian Jewish War Relief drive now on in the city was received, and it was decided to vote the sum of \$25 towards the fund.

### GEN. CURRIE ACCEPTS THE POST AT MCGILL

Must Not Face Future in a Spirit of Pessimism, He Declares.

MONTREAL, May 12.—At the close of an historic convocation of McGill University, Acting Principal F. D. Adams, announced on behalf of the board of governors the appointment of Lt. General Sir Arthur Currie to the principalship of the university.

Sir Arthur, rising to reply, was greeted with an ovation that lasted several minutes. In a brief speech that carried to every part of the hall he said that he "already had many McGill men under him for five years during the war. "For the future," he concluded, "we have to face unrest but we need not face it in a spirit of pessimism provided we have a proper regard for the lessons of the war." He showed the analogy that exists between discipline in the war and discipline in private life with obedience to the dictates of reason and conscience.

At The Y. M. C. A.

The first public speech made by Lt. General Sir Arthur Currie, following his installation as principal of McGill University, was made tonight as the guest of the Young Men's Christian Association at the annual meeting held in the association's building on Drummond street. Sir Arthur said that he regarded the Young Men's Christian Association as an integral part of the Canadian community, "just as necessary to their work as any other branch of the community." He added that "in any organization we have or in any nation for the future of the world, there must be a place for an organization like this."

Clipping from issue dated May 13th of

# Canadian Engineer

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## GEN. CURRIE AND MCGILL UNIVERSITY

**I**N an "Associated Press" despatch from Montreal it is stated that Gen. Sir Arthur Currie, inspector-general of the Canadian forces and formerly commander of the Canadian Corps in France, has been offered and has accepted the appointment as principal of McGill University. No official announcement has as yet been made by the authorities of the University, but it is stated that the Board of Governors met last Monday to consider the matter.

If confirmed, this appointment will create a precedent, as Gen. Currie is not a graduate of any university, although he had an education which qualified him as a teacher in a high school in British Columbia, which position he held for six years before entering the real estate business. This was, of course, long before he found his real metier as a soldier.

Gen. Currie's appointment would undoubtedly be immensely popular and of distinct advantage to McGill University, not only because of his military record, but also because of his business and executive ability, his commanding personality, his talent as a speaker and a writer, and the warm place which he occupies in the hearts of the Canadian public, who will long remember his valiant, indefatigable services during the war.

The Board of Governors of McGill University cannot possibly make any other appointment that would meet with the general approval that will be shown throughout Canada if the newspaper announcement is officially confirmed. They are to be congratulated if Gen. Currie has agreed to accept the position, for they will have secured the services of one of the greatest characters in Canada's history; and Gen. Currie also is to be heartily congratulated, for the prestige of McGill is great, and his election as its head will be second to no other honor that he has yet received, many though they have been.

## GENERAL'S REPLY.

When the enthusiastic applause which followed the ceremony of the presentation had subsided, Sir Arthur Currie stated that no tribute he had ever received could be more highly valued than that mark of confidence and esteem from the officers who had served with him in the Corps. There they knew each other simply as men who were actuated by one common motive and high ideal. To save country and Empire was their one thought and as the gravity of the conflict dawned upon them that thought deepened, especially when they realized all the horrible nature of the enemy's character and the way in which it jeopardized all that civilization stood for, the triumph of might over right if the Germans should succeed. For them, under such circumstances, it was necessary that all of British race should be in the battle line. It was a battle for a great cause, one that brought out the solidarity of Empire and in its train brought to Canada the consciousness of nationhood. The soldiers overseas had been proud of the part they were able to play and of the victories that had been theirs, and they were all the prouder because they felt they had the support of those at home.

The problems of today, continued General Currie, were grave and difficult in many respects, but broached in a spirit of goodwill and tolerance and sympathy, and by the same ideals as actuated them overseas, there was no reason why they should not find a solution, and in this there was ample room for those who had fought the country's battles overseas to show similar courage at home. X

X Touching on McGill University, General Currie drew a parallel between the organization that was necessary in the army and for the work connected with an institution of such national importance and connections. Organization had played a great part in the Canadian Corps and its benefits could be equally applied to a great educational institution.

## TEXT OF ADDRESS.

The address presented to General Currie was as follows:

To General Sir Arthur William Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., LL.D., late commander Canadian Corps:

"Now at the conclusion of hostilities and the approaching proclamation of a much-desired peace, we, the undersigned officers of the Canadian forces engaged in the great struggle for the liberty of civilization, wish to place on record our sincere gratitude for and whole-hearted appreciation of the signal and import-

# PRESENTED SWORD TO GENERAL CURRIE

Senior Officers of Canadian  
Expeditionary Force Paid  
Tribute to G.O.C.

## AN UNIQUE GATHERING

Problems Could Be Solved by  
Spirit That Animated Men  
at Front, Said General  
Currie

There was an unique gathering of officers who had served with the Canadian forces overseas when a dinner was given at the University Club last night in honor of General Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., at which the general officer commanding the corps was the recipient of a sword of honor and an illuminated address from the senior officers who had served under him. The gathering was to have been presided over by Major-General Sir David Watson, but as he was called away by urgent business, the chair was taken by Major-General Sir H. E. Burstall, K.C.M.G., who made the presentation to the guest of the evening. Among those who, together with the chairman, testified to the good qualities of their G.O.C., were General McDonald, of the 1st Division, General Loomis, of the 3rd, General Morrison for the Canadian Corps artillery, also General Griesbach and General Peck. The 2nd division was represented by the chairman, Sir H. E. Burstall, while the 4th division's G.O.C., Sir David Watson, was, as stated, unavoidably absent. The gathering was one that was marked by a splendid spirit, redolent of old times under more strenuous and graver conditions. General Currie in his acknowledgment, showed a deep appreciation of this expression of esteem and suggested that the men who had passed through those experiences would be equal to playing their part in the tests of the future.

The illuminated address, which is a beautiful work of art, is significant of the respect and affection with which the man under whom the Canadian Corps achieved such signal victories was regarded by every one of the officers of that corps. The address praises not only "his military knowledge" and "unquestionable judgment," but also the "human feeling" as evinced in "the marked care displayed at all times" for the comfort and well-being of his men.

In addition to being an unquestionable and valuable testimonial from the officers who served and fought under the corps commander, the address will have an historic significance as it bears a reproduction of the actual signatures to the original document of every officer who held an important command or appointment in the Canadian Corps when the "cease fire" sounded. The signatories comprise some six Major-Generals, twenty-two Brigadier-Generals, nine Colonels and one hundred and nine Lieutenant-Colonels, representing the officers commanding the four divisions, the artillery, the engineers and the machine guns; the chief staff officers at corps and divisional headquarters; the brigadiers commanding infantry, artillery and engineers, and the commanders of all battalions and corps troops.

The sword of honor is richly jewelled and bears the coat of arms of the Dominion and miniatures of the various decorations of the Corps commander, and the blade bears the

ant services you have rendered to your King and to Canada during the last five years of conflict, as a brigade, divisional and, lastly, corps commander.

"Your keen military knowledge, unquestionable judgment and human feeling, coupled with the extraordinary skill, courage and tenacity which you evinced in battle, attracted the attention and admiration of the whole army, and of those in higher command, who have seen fit to recommend the bestowal upon you of the many decorations which you have so thoroughly merited.

"We delight in taking this opportunity of assuring you of our profound confidence in your excellent leadership, and our great admiration for the manner in which you performed the arduous duties incidental to your important commands, and the marked care displayed at all times for the comfort and well-being of your men.

"It is a source of much gratification to us to know that you have seen fit to place your great ability at the service of your country for the future, and we hope that this Dominion will for many years to come reap the benefits which will undoubtedly accrue to it therefrom.

"Witness the signature of the officers of the Canadian Corps holding commands and appointments in the field on the eleventh day of November, nineteen hundred and eighteen."

The invited guests included:—

Major-Generals—Sir Henry E. Burstall, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.; Sir A. C. Macdonell, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.; Sir F. O. W. Loomis, K.C.B., C.M.G.; Sir Edward Morrison, K.C.B., C.M.G.; J. H. MacBrien, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Brig.-Generals:—A. G. Macnaughton, C.M.G.; D.S.O.; D. M. Ormond, C.M.G., D.S.O.; C. H. Maclaren, C.M.G., D.S.O.; W. B. M. King, C.M.G., D.S.O.; W. A. Griesbach, C.M.G., D.S.O.; W. O. H. Dodds, C.M.G., D.S.O.; D. C. Draper, C.M.G., D.S.O.; C. Armstrong, C.B.; F. Melghen, C.M.G.; E. de B. Panet, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Colonels:—C. A. Peters, D.S.O.; J. E. Gagnon, O.B.E.; R. P. Wright, C.M.G., D.S.O.; P. Burnett, D.S.O.; F. M. Gaudet, C.M.G.; John J. Almond, C.M.G.; S. H. Osler, D.S.O.

Lieut.-Colonels:—C. T. Peck, V.C.; D.S.O.; F. W. Ware, D.S.O.; H. D. Crerar, D.S.O.; W. Gibsons, C.M.G., D.S.O.; E. Forde, C.M.G., D.S.O.; W. Wilgar, D.S.O.; B. O. Hopper, D.S.O.; Douglas Cameron, D.S.O.; K. R. Marshall, C.M.G., D.S.O.; E. G. Hanson; S. W. Watson, D.S.O.; C. F. Ritchie, D.S.O.; R. L. H. Ewing, D.S.O., M.C.; A. E. Dubuc, D.S.O.; L. R. LaFleche, D.S.O.; H. Chasse, D.S.O.; L. J. Desrosiers, D.S.O.; J. J. Penhale, D.S.O.; A. T. Bazin, D.S.O.; A. L. C. Gilday, D.S.O.; C. W. Vipond, D.S.O.; F. A. Gascoigne, D.S.O.; W. B. Evans, D.S.O.; Frank Magee, D.S.O.; William Legatt, M.C.; R. McCuaig, D.S.O.; A. Cameron; J. J. Creelman, D.S.O.; Peers Davidson; Thackray, D.S.O.; R. O. Alexander, D.S.O.; R. Webb, D.S.O.; W. W. Burland, D.S.O.; F. W. Fisher; Gault McCombe, D.S.O.; Paul Hanson; H. M. Molson, M.C.; A. A. Magee, D.S.O.; the Hon. W. J. Shaughnessy; R. Costigan; H. H. Harrison; A. MacMillan. Majors: G. Routier, M.C.; D. J. O'Donahoe, D.S.O.; Sir Andrew MacPhail; G. C. Cameron; D. A. Morrison, M.C. and Bar; N. H. Macauley, D.S.O.; C. S. Hanson; W. G. Hanson; J. M. Eakens; A. G. Kittson, M.C.; R. Muirhead; L. Buckley, D.S.O.; D. W. White, D.S.O.; A. T. Paterson, D.S.O.; F. T. Arnoldi, D.S.O.; H. T. Cook, M.C.; W. O. White, D.S.O., M.C.; J. M. Bales, M.C.; F. E. Phelan, D.S.O., M.C.; H. W. Walker, M.C.; R. M. Redmond, D.S.O.; William Scully; L. W. Barker, D.S.O.; T. W. Ryder, M.C.; E. R. W. Hebden, M.C.; E. G. M. Cape, D.S.O.; E. R. Pease, D.S.O.; Staunton Mathewson, D.S.O.; C. G. Mackinnon, M.C.; C. F. C. Forteous, M.C.; G. G. Lewis; G. P. Dunlop, M.C.; George C. MacDonald, M.C.

To General Sir Arthur William Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., Commanding Canadian Army Corps, from officers holding commands and staff appointments in the corps on November 11th, 1918, as a token of their regard and deep admiration for his magnificent services to Canada and the Empire in the Great War.

# The Border Cities Star

WINDSOR, ONTARIO

WESTERN ONTARIO'S LEADING  
EVENING NEWSPAPER

The following Item of Interest to you appeared  
in The Star's issue of May 18/20

## Sir Arthur's Appointment

Appointment of Sir Arthur Currie to the presidency of McGill University has come as a distinct surprise to most Canadians but it is none the less pleasing. The action of the board is a radical departure from the usual order of things and the example thus set may have a far-reaching effect. That Sir Arthur will "make good" in his new position goes without saying. A business man in the West before the war, General Currie received a real opportunity to demonstrate his administrative abilities as head of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. His success in that responsible position is well known. Only last week Sir Arthur was waited upon by a large number of prominent officers who served with him overseas, and presented with a handsome sword and an illuminated address, as tokens of their appreciation of his services.

In his new office as head of Canada's greatest educational institution, General Currie will have the best wishes of an appreciative people. The honors that have come to him are truly the rewards of merit and effort.

# SIR ARTHUR CURRIE NEW PRINCIPAL OF MCGILL IS GREETED BY UNIVERSITY

## Canadian Commander Officially Announced as Head of Famous Montreal Institution.

## No Need Facing Future in Spirit of Pessimism He Declares.

By Canadian Associated Press.

MONTREAL, May 12.—At the conclusion of an historic convocation of McGill University Acting Principal F. D. Adams announced on behalf of the board of governors the appointment of General Sir Arthur Currie to the principalship of the university.

Sir Arthur, rising to reply, was greeted with an ovation that lasted several minutes. In a brief speech that carried to every part of the hall, he said that he had already had many McGill men under him for five years during the war.

"For the future," he concluded, "we have to face unrest, but we need not face it in a spirit of pessimism provided we have a proper regard for the lessons of the war." He showed the analogy that exists between discipline in the war and discipline in private life with obedience to the dictates of reason and conscience.

Speaks At Y.M.C.A.

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## Ottawa Veterans Felicitate Currie

The executive of the G.W.V.A., Ottawa branch, at a meeting last night passed a resolution noting with the greatest pleasure the appointment of General Sir Arthur Currie to the post of principal and vice-chancellor of McGill University. The resolution added:

"The executive feels that the general's remarkable powers of organization will prove of the utmost benefit to the furtherance of the educational facilities of this university, and begs to congratulate the faculty on their foresight in electing this distinguished Canadian to this eminently responsible post."

## 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."

### NOTES AND COMMENT.

It is hard to say whether the trustees of McGill University or Sir Arthur Currie are to be congratulated the most.

Sir Arthur Currie takes with him to McGill the genius of an exceptional executive and the example of high achievement in his country's service.

From being Commander in Chief of Canada's greatest army to being Commander in Chief of Canada's greatest university is a natural step after all. Sir Arthur will continue in close touch with the finest brand of young Canadianism.

**DOCKET STARTS:**

## GENERAL CURRIE FOR M'GILL POST

Understood Canadian Corps  
Commander Has Been Of-  
fered Principalship

MEETING ON WEDNESDAY

Formal Announcement of Ap-  
pointment Expected After  
Assembly of Board of  
Governors

It is understood that General Sir Arthur Currie, Inspector General of the Canadian Forces, has been offered the appointment as Principal of McGill University, and that General Currie has tentatively accepted the appointment. The matter was brought up at a meeting of the board of governors yesterday afternoon, following which it was stated that the appointment of General Currie, to succeed Sir Auckland Geddes, now British Ambassador at Washington, has been considered. A further meeting of the board of governors will be held on Wednesday, when an official statement will be issued. This statement, it is expected, will contain the formal announcement that General Sir Arthur Currie has been offered, and has accepted the appointment.

At the close of the meeting of the governors yesterday afternoon, it was stated by members of the corporation that this appointment had been under discussion, but the governors considered that until the time came, on Wednesday, for an official announcement, no definite statement could be made.

Despatches from Ottawa stated yesterday that the probability of General Sir Arthur Currie's appointment to the principalship of McGill University had been mooted, but that General Currie had declined to discuss the matter in its present position.

### PRACTICALLY SETTLED.

It was considered in McGill University circles yesterday that the moves made by the University Corporation, following the preliminary parleys with General Currie, had practically settled the question of who was to succeed Sir Auckland Geddes as Principal of McGill, and general approbation was expressed at the hope that General Currie would accept the position.

Should the movement for the appointment of General Currie end in his taking over the office it will establish one of the many new precedents at the university incident to the war, since General Currie is not a university man, although he had an education that fitted him to qualify for a high school teacher, and in his younger days he taught at high school for six years, before he entered the real estate business in British Columbia, after which he found his metier as a soldier, in which he won such high honors.

He was noted at the front not merely as a capable officer, to such an extent that he rose from rank as a lieutenant-colonel commanding

a regiment, to the commander of the Canadian Corps, with rank as lieutenant-general, but as an officer whose ability to inspire soldiers, both by speeches and written orders, was such that his addresses are regarded as classics. General Currie's final address to the Canadian Corps precedent to the great advance on Mons was considered one of the masterpieces of British military instructions, ranking with those given the Union forces just before the Battle of Gettysburg. So highly was this final order of General Currie considered in France that the French Government has since had it translated into French, and had it placed in every public school in France.

It was considered by leaders at McGill that the selection of General Currie as Principal of McGill University will be a distinct advantage to that institution, not only from the record won by General Currie in the war, but by reason of his commanding personality, his ability as a speaker and writer, and by his record as a citizen, who will be able to bring the university into even closer touch with the people.

Immediately on the organization of the Canadian forces for the war in 1914, General Currie joined, as lieutenant-colonel, commanding the 16th Vancouver Regiment, with which he went to the mobilization camp at Valcartier.

When the First Canadian Division left England for France, the then Lt.-Col. Arthur W. Currie was in command of the 2nd Infantry Brigade of the First Division. Later he succeeded Major-General Alderson in command of the First Division, shortly after the 2nd Battle of Ypres in 1915. He served with General Byng when the Canadian Corps was organized, and when the latter officer was promoted to a higher command General Currie succeeded him as General Officer commanding the Canadian Corps.

Ottawa Citizen (Morning)  
May 11th, 1920

## GEN. CURRIE TO HEAD M'GILL UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL

Report States He Has Tenta-  
tively Accepted but For-  
mer C.E.F. Commander  
Says He Is in Ignorance.

MONTREAL, May 10.—It is understood that General Sir Arthur Currie, inspector-general of the Canadian forces, has been offered the appointment as principal of McGill University, and that General Currie has tentatively accepted the appointment. The matter was considered this afternoon at a meeting of the board of governors.

A further meeting of the board will be held on Wednesday, when an official statement will be issued, which will, it is hoped, contain the formal announcement that General Currie has been offered, and has accepted, the appointment.

This appointment, if confirmed, will create a new precedent since General Currie is not a university man, although he had an education that qualified him for a high school teacher and he taught in a high school for six years in his earlier days, before entering real estate in British Columbia, after which he found his real metier as a soldier.

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SIR ARTHUR CURRIE.

to bring the university into even closer touch with the people.

When General Sir Arthur Currie was informed last night that his name had been mentioned in connection with the principalship of McGill University his only comment was: "I do not know anything about it."

WOODS BLDG ST  
quater  
this head-  
Dr Military  
No 4  
Influence  
1920

# SIR ARTHUR CURRIE IS OFFERED PRINCIPALSHIP OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

**Inspector - General of  
Canadian Forces Said  
to Be Offered Post.**

**CREATES PRECEDENT  
Is Not University Grad-  
uate But Taught High  
School for Six Years.**

**By Canadian Associated Press.**

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Sir Arthur Currie was apparently out of the city last night and could not be located by The Journal. His friends had not heard of the offer to Sir Arthur.

NEW M'GILL PRINCIPAL?



SIR ARTHUR CURRIE

**DOCKET ENDS:**

# 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 Dominion.

By Canadian Associated Press.  
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## PAYS NOTABLE TRIBUTE TO GENERAL CURRIE

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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.

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## 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.

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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.

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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.

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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 General Currie 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 Gwatkin, 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.

## GENERAL CURRIE GOES TO M'GILL

Has Accepted Post of Principal of University—Board of Governors Issues Statement Explaining Selection

MONTREAL, May 12.—General Sir Arthur Currie has been offered the post of Principal of McGill University, and has accepted.

Sir Arthur Currie is at present Inspector-General of the Canadian Militia. He received the D.C.L. degree from McGill this afternoon.

The statement issued at McGill University this afternoon is as follows:

"The board of governors has appointed General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., D.S.O., Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University. In offering Sir Arthur Currie the principalship of McGill, the governors were influenced by the conviction that the University needs at the present time, above all other things, a principal with exceptional powers of organization and administration, and endowed with a tried capacity for inspiration and leadership. The sustained brilliancy of Sir Arthur Currie's record in the Great War will always throw a lustre upon the most glorious annals of our country. 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 best and most efficient army corps at the front. His war dispatches were notable for their clearness and descriptive excellence, while his messages to the Canadian army were characterized by a loftiness of tone and noble simplicity of utterance which attracted the admiration of all English-speaking peoples. The qualities which made him an incomparable organizing 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 affiliation, may come as a surprise to some friends of McGill. But the governors were supported by the sanction of high educational authorities in inviting Sir Arthur to accept the position.

"He was singled out and his appointment enthusiastically urged by Sir Auckland Geddes, and the suggestion was emphatically approved by the Master of Balliol and Prof. W. G. S. Adams, Fellow of All Souls, Oxford, who rank with the most eminent educationists in the British Isles. These two high academic personages united with Sir Auckland in the belief that McGill would be singularly fortunate if it succeeded in securing Sir Arthur Currie's services, and there is no one, either in Canada or Great Britain, whose name they value above that of Sir Arthur Currie.

### PRINCIPAL OF MCGILL.

The Board of Governors of McGill University have broken down the bars of precedent in appointing as Principal General Sir Arthur Currie, yet in the case of a man of his stamp, personality, ability and organizing genius it is not an experiment upon which they have embarked. Sir Arthur is equipped by his experience, and notably by his contact with men, to fill with distinction the office which has now fallen to his lot. The Principal of a university should be a man of great ideals and far-seeing vision and with both of these we believe General Currie is endowed. He has an adaptability and a bonhomie which will stand him in good stead in such an institution as McGill. He will have the opportunity to render his country a service of vital good in the paths of peace, and the fact that he is without academic affiliation is more than offset by the experience he has won in such a rich way as a graduate of life.

Sir Arthur Currie will carry with him into his new career the warmest good wishes of Victorians who regard every new advancement he wins as an honor to this community. The qualifications which have led to his selection for the post of Principal are his powers of organization and leadership. They cannot be exercised in a better sphere than that of education. In that field of endeavor Sir Arthur now has the opportunity of setting his mark anew on the progress of his country. He is recognized as the foremost military leader Canada has ever possessed. That he should be prepared to devote himself to the task of education and accept responsibilities which call for undivided efforts and a high level of achievement is typical of the courageous principles which won him such fame in the Great War.

### SCHOOL BOARD DOES HONOR TO SIR ARTHUR

Sends Congratulatory Telegram to  
New Principal of McGill  
University

The School Board last night dispatched a telegram to Sir Arthur Currie, newly appointed principal and vice-chancellor of McGill University, congratulating him on the honor conferred upon him and wishing him success. School trustees and the educational fraternity of Victoria take special interest in Sir Arthur's appointment by reason of the fact that he was formerly a teacher on Vancouver Island.

# THE VETERAN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE  
GREAT WAR VETERANS' ASSOCIATION  
OF CANADA

(THE PROPERTY OF THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE)

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DAVID LOUGHNAN

Associate Editors:

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NOTICE.—The Editor will be pleased to consider articles and contributions of topical interest, but cannot be held responsible for unsolicited manuscripts. Every effort will be made to return rejected contributions when stamped addressed envelopes are enclosed. Address: THE VETERAN, 47 Citizen Building, Ottawa.

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THE VETERAN accepts no responsibility for the views expressed in articles appearing under the author's name.

In sending MS. please state whether payment is expected. Poetry will be accepted only as a free contribution.



Vol. III

TORONTO, JUNE, 1920

No. 7

## 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 unending 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.

THE NEW PRINCIPAL OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY



General Sir Arthur Currie, who was installed in office this afternoon.

SIR ARTHUR CURRIE INSTALLED AS HEAD OF MCGILL TODAY

Dean Adams, Acting Principal, Made the Announcement Which Was Received With Resounding Cheers

At the annual convocation of McGill University held in the Royal Victoria College this afternoon, Dr. Frank D. Adams, acting principal made the announcement on behalf of the Governors that General Sir Arthur William Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., had been appointed Principal of McGill.

organization and administration, and endowed with a capacity for inspiration and leadership. The sustained brilliancy of Sir Arthur Currie's record in the Great War will always throw an added lustre upon the most glorious annals of our country.

NEW ERA AT MCGILL. "This is the beginning of a new period in the history of McGill," said the speaker. "The past history of the university has comprised three chapters. First, that period covering the beginning of the university, about which the public has comparatively little information; second, that period under Sir Wm. Dawson, when the college moved to its present location and occupied the Arts Building. At the same time it commenced to erect new buildings.

notable for their clearness and descriptive excellence, while his messages to the Canadian Army were characterized by a loftiness of tone and a noble 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.

A GLORIOUS FUTURE. This present year is a transitional period marking the close of the Great War and the return of our soldiers to the University and civilian life. It ushers in the fourth chapter in McGill's history, which is marked by the appointment of a new principal under whom the University will undoubtedly develop new plans and will pass on to new and greater successes than any it has ever achieved in times past.

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. He was singled out, and his appointment enthusiastically urged, by Sir Auckland Geddes, and the suggestion was emphatically approved by the Master of Balliol and Prof. W. G. S. Adams, Fellow of All Souls, Oxford, who rank with the most eminent educationalists in the British Isles.

THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT. The official statement issued by the Governors is as follows: The Board of Governors, at a meeting held on the 10th instant, appointed General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., D.S.O., Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University. In offering Sir Arthur Currie the Principalship of McGill, the Governors were influenced by the conviction that the University needs at the present time, above all other things, a Principal filled with exceptional powers of

Up till 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.

MEMORIAL CHURCH NEAR VIMY RIDGE

Patronage of General Sir Arthur Currie Was Sought for Project

A NATIONAL MEMORIAL

The Inspector-General, While Sympathetic, Expressed Opinion Church Should Be Undenominational

A project for the erection of a Canadian Protestant Memorial church to be located in the city of Lens, near Vimy Ridge, formed the subject of a deputation which waited yesterday morning upon General Sir Arthur Currie. The members of the deputation included Principal Donald Fraser, Rev. Dr. Bieler, Rev. T. W. Davidson, Rev. George Adam and Rev. F. M. McCutcheon, and the introduction was made by Rev. Principal Fraser.

From the statement which was made by Rev. Dr. Bieler, it appeared that the proposal to erect a memorial church arose out of a movement that originated in the United States to help in the reconstruction of the many French Protestant churches which were destroyed in the war zone. Dr. Bieler had made a tour in the United States in this connection over a year ago and had first-hand information as to the situation. As Canada's contribution the suggestion had been made that the erection of a church in the area where the Canadian Corps saw so much strenuous fighting would be a fitting thing. It so happened that the church which was destroyed at Lens was a Presbyterian church, and on this account Dr. Bieler had made an appeal to the Montreal Presbytery and to the General Assembly to take an interest in the scheme.

The object in calling upon General Sir Arthur Currie was to secure his approval and patronage. His views, however, were that if this was to be a national memorial, for which subscriptions are to be invited from all over the Dominion, it should be an undenominational church. He asked a number of questions as to what church would have the administration, who would appoint the pastor, and the estimate as to cost. As to the administration, it was in the minds of the promoters that the church would be under the direction of the Federal Protestant Churches of France, of which Dr. Monod of Paris is the president. It was admitted, however, that if it was to be a union church, the question would have to be considered in that light, and also the whole question of placing it under Canadian jurisdiction with a bilingual pastor should be considered.

The members of the delegation received the utmost sympathy from General Currie, who made notes of their explanations and promised to go into the scheme and advise them later with his data.

W. M. Birks, Esq., Montreal.



LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR ARTHUR CURRIE, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., LL.D.,  
Principal of McGill University, Montreal.

The appointment of General Sir Arthur Currie to the Principalship of McGill University, Montreal, is at once a tribute to his exceptional organizing and administrative abilities, his fine courage, his clear vision, and his sterling character. Old McGill at the moment requires a man endowed with these qualities. Under the direction of Sir Arthur Currie, the new era upon which the University has entered is bright with promise and hope.

— Photo by J. A. Millar.

La nomination du général Sir Arthur Currie comme principal de l'Université McGill, Montréal est un hommage à ses qualités exceptionnelles d'organisateur et d'administrateur, sa vaillance, son esprit éclairé et son noble caractère. McGill a besoin à l'heure actuelle, d'un homme doué de ces qualités. Sous la direction de Sir Arthur Currie verra s'ouvrir une ère brillante et nouvelle pleine de promesses pour l'avenir de cette vieille institution.

**DOCKET STARTS:**

# CURRIE APPOINTMENT A NOTABLE EXAMPLE

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and Optimism Expected of  
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By Canadian Associated Press.

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"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."

## McGILL AND GENERAL CURRIE.

The report that McGill University will ask General Sir ARTHUR CURRIE to become principal of the University is an interesting one. To some who have not been familiar with the trend of affairs in connection with the great universities of the continent, the idea of a man whose distinction is in another line than scholarship being sought for the chief office of a university may seem peculiar; but the fact is that a tendency has become strong in the universities to aim to secure executive ability at the head of affairs. The greatest problem of most universities is how to pay their way. A first class administrator in charge of the university and its business is likely to be a more efficient promoter of the university and of most of the ideals a university represents than a first class scholar who might not possess administrative or business ability.

The man who handled the Canadian army in France with conspicuous success is likely to be possessed of great executive power in any other administrative office, so there is nothing surprising about the suggestion of Sir ARTHUR CURRIE'S name for McGill except that somebody has had sufficient originality of mind to think of it. As to whether General CURRIE would care to have the job, rather than that of commander of the Canadian home army, that is another matter.

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# SIR ARTHUR CURRIE IS OFFERED PRINCIPALSHIP OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

**Inspector - General of Canadian Forces Said to Be Offered Post.**

**CREATES PRECEDENT**

**Is Not University Graduate But Taught High School for Six Years.**

*By Canadian Associated Press.*

MONTREAL, May 10.—It is understood that General Sir Arthur Currie, Inspector-General of the Canadian forces, has been offered the appointment as principal of McGill University and General Currie has tentatively accepted the appointment. The matter was considered this afternoon at a meeting of the board of governors.

A further meeting of the board will be held on Wednesday, when an official statement will be issued which will, it is hoped, contain the formal announcement that General Currie has been offered and has accepted the appointment.

This appointment if confirmed will create a new precedent, since General Currie is not a university man, although he had an education that qualified him for a high school teacher and he taught in a high school for six years in his earlier days, before entering real estate in British Columbia, after which he found his real metier as a soldier.

It is considered that the selection of General Currie as principal of McGill University will be a distinct advantage to the institution, not only by reason of his war record, but also because of his commanding personality, his ability as a speaker and a writer, and his record as a citizen who will be able to bring the university into even closer touch with the people.

Sir Arthur Currie was apparently out of the city last night and could not be located by The Journal. His friends had not heard of the offer to Sir Arthur.

NEW M'GILL PRINCIPAL?



SIR ARTHUR CURRIE

DR. CORBETT

CARR

# O'Clock Edition

PAGE 5 TODAY.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

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

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Yours very truly,

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

## OTTAWA APPEAL

# SIR ARTHUR CURRIE NEW PRINCIPAL OF MCGILL IS GREETED BY UNIVERSITY

**Canadian Commander  
Officially Announced  
as Head of Famous  
Montreal Insti-  
tution.**

**No Need Facing Future  
in Spirit of Pessimism  
He Declares.**

By Canadian Associated Press.

MONTREAL, May 12.—At the conclusion of an historic convocation of McGill University Acting Principal F. D. Adams announced on behalf of the board of governors the appointment of General Sir Arthur Currie to the principalship of the university.

Sir Arthur, rising to reply, was greeted with an ovation that lasted several minutes. In a brief speech that carried to every part of the hall, he said that he had already had many McGill men under him for five years during the war.

"For the future," he concluded, "we have to face unrest, but we need not face it in a spirit of pessimism provided we have a proper regard for the lessons of the war." He showed the analogy that exists between discipline in the war and discipline in private life with obedience to the dictates of reason and conscience.

Speaks At Y.M.C.A.

MONTREAL, May 12. — The first public speech made by Major-General Sir Arthur Currie, following his installation as principal of McGill University was made tonight as the guest of the Young Men's Christian Association at the annual meeting held in the association's building on Drummond street. Sir Arthur said that he regarded the Young Men's Christian Association as an integral part of the Canadian corps, "just as necessary to their success as any other branch of the service." He added that "in any militia organization we have or in any preparation for the future of the army there must always be a place for an organization like this."

**Ottawa Veterans  
Felicitate Currie**

The executive of the G.W.V.A., Ottawa branch, at a meeting last night passed a resolution noting with the greatest pleasure the appointment of General Sir Arthur Currie to the post of principal and vice-chancellor of McGill University. The resolution added:

"The executive feels that the general's remarkable powers of organization will prove of the utmost benefit to the furtherance of the educational facilities of this university, and begs to congratulate the faculty on their foresight in electing this distinguished Canadian to this eminently responsible post."

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