

(August 29, 1921.)

Address

BY HIS EXCELLENCY LORD BYNG.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I know of no words in any language which I should use at the present moment to say what I feel at your reception. I am going to say three words, but I am going to say them from the very bottom of my heart. Those three words are, "I thank you."

Gentlemen, I never mean to write a book. I promise you that. But if ever I did have to write a book I should rather copy the lines of Thomas Hobbes in his *Leviathan*. He wrote, as you probably well know, about the Divine Right of Kings. I should write about the Divine right of Byngs. And one of the greatest of their Divine rights should be that they were exempt from making speeches, because they cannot do it.

But, however, gentlemen, I have come to talk to you for a few moments just about one or two things that occurred. The one great thing that is in my mind at the present moment is your nation, your Dominion, and I wonder if you would mind just running back in your memories to three and a half years ago. I went to the corps in 1916, that is four years ago now. I found them a body of splendid individuals, but I think those who served with me will bear me out when I say there might have been perhaps a little feeling between some of the Divisions or some of the units. I do not think, to quote Scripture, that it was bigger than a man's hand; in fact, I think it was about the size of his little finger, if it existed at all. But I talked to the leaders, your leaders, about it, and what happened? They completely did away with it. Then came the 9th of April, 1917. I want you to remember that date—the 9th of April, 1917. And what happened? The corps, those four divisions in line, went over the top. There was no sudden burst of undisciplined valor—there was no eruption of a few individuals into the enemies' trenches. The corps went over as a big crank of a heavy machine. It took its trenches, trench after trench, unconquered, unconquerable, and exactly at schedule time there stood that great big bunch of bustling Byng Boys on the top of their final objective, proud in the accomplishment of what they had done.

Now, gentlemen, the war is over. I dare say a great many hate talking about war and thinking about it. I agree with you if you do. But I think there are lessons to be learned from the war, and one of the lessons I like to think about and I would like you to give a passing thought to it, cannot we get that great big bunch of Byng Boys to get the peace objective as well as they did the war? Can we not for a moment try to do away with rivalries like there were perhaps between units and divisions. Cannot we forget the question of the east and west, the difference of class, the difference of religion, the difference of nationality? Cannot we forget them in the same way that those four splendid old divisions forgot their little feelings towards each other?

Gentlemen, I am no twentieth century Gideon. Gideon worked his will in a way totally different from the way I would like to see it. Gideon as you remember first eliminated all those who had no stomach for the fight. Those are the very men, gentlemen, I want to get. I want to fill their stomachs. I want to give them double rations. I would like to give them rum if it were allowed. Gideon then took his men down to the water and he eliminated all those that did not drink from the palms of their hands. Gentlemen, I do not care how you drink water. You can drink it in any way you like. I do not only care for that, I say the people that drink ginger ale and the people that come from those provinces which are well known to you where prohibition does not exist, they are needed. Every one of us is needed. This great big, big offensive of Byng Boys. We are all in it, no matter what we drink. Let us remember that.

I think, gentlemen, if you will agree with me, there is something in what I have said, and if we can get that unity which I know is possible and I feel is possible, if we can get everybody like those boys on the 9th of April, who each sensed his job, who knew his job, and who did his job, if we can get them to go in this big peace-offensive, then, gentlemen, Canada is completely perfect.

Gentlemen, one last word. You know just as well as I do there are a good many of those boys now that have not got a job. I know the difficulty of giving them jobs. I know the difficulties of the present moment of finding these men employment. But I know, and I think you know, that there are amongst them a great many who would work if work could be provided. I am not sure I am not talking to some gentlemen who do hold an ace to take that trick. Perhaps I am not. But I do ask you now, before winter time comes with its

severity, just to turn over in your mind whether there is not something you can do to help to give a great right hustling Byng Boy a job.

Gentlemen, I have nothing more to tell you. I have nothing more to say. I would like to say this, that I appreciate your invitation to come and see you. I appreciate the greeting you have given me. I appreciate meeting you. I wish you, gentlemen, whatever is wishable from the very bottom of my heart, and I thank you sincerely for listening.