

worth while? If so, are we to abandon them, or are we to maintain them? I contend that to maintain these principles is one of the special objects of a league of this kind. If we forfeit or abandon these principles, our civilization will sink to a low plane.

### **To Maintain British Status.**

Having intimated to you the classes of people we have to deal with, and what we have to defend, we must, in contrast with existing apathy, define our position most clearly. That position may be said to be this: There is a most passionate and heart-felt desire on the part of the vast majority of Canadians to maintain a separate national existence on this continent as part of the British Empire. That feeling is the bed-rock of the Canadian's composition. Is there anything we can advance or anything we can substitute as an equivalent to that feeling? I think not. In dealing with the people I have mentioned we have got to make clear to them the absolute necessity for the preservation of that British status if we do not want to forfeit all that life makes dear to us. If we have that object clearly before us, the next thing is to know how we propose to carry it out. In order to make that point clear you will have to read our Constitution. Later on you will hear from a gentleman who is connected with the National Service League, which is very much on the same lines as ours.

### **Organization Plans.**

We have drafted a Constitution which provides for county associations, local branches, and Provincial divisions. We hope to provide speakers who will go through the country and explain to the people the objects of the League and help in the formation of local branches. When we have the League in working order and the branches formed, the next question is, what do we expect to do? That there may be no mistake it is plainly laid down that we hope to form a body of public opinion insistent on this, that there shall be effective legislation, whether by the Dominion or Provincial Parliaments does not matter, which shall make every young Canadian an efficient factor for defence in the event of this country ever being threatened. The mode of doing that is a matter for the Legislatures. The point is that whatever is done must be done by legislation, and in order to get that legislation we must succeed in the first place in convincing the electorate. Our legislators will do nothing except what they know will be supported by the electorate. Once we have the electorate convinced, the legislators will be only too glad to follow

the lead of the people. That is what we hope ultimately to get by this movement. Having got that, we shall then have only to arrange that the young manhood of the nation is trained. But we have also to appeal to those who are grown up. Vigilance is the price of liberty, but some grown-up people seem to forget this fact, so that while we want especially to appeal to the young, we also appeal to the adult population. To make the local organizations effective we ask every man and woman who in any way takes an interest in this question to put his or her shoulder to the wheel and help to carry on this great work. That is, in brief, our object, our plan of campaign, and what we hope to gain by it.

### **Women's Influence Needed.**

We wish to interest the women of Canada in this movement. We know quite well that they will respond to the appeal; the history of past times shows that as a woman led the man followed. In the modern history of Canada we have had numerous instances of heroism shown by women. I think if we can induce the ladies who have so much influence with their sons, their sweethearts, their husbands, to join this movement, we are bound to succeed. If we succeed, what will be the result?

In Canada we are producing a distinct type. We are not English; we are not the people of the United States. We are Canadians, and that type should produce a race which should be honest, manly, not given to boasting, not narrow-mindedly provincial, but taking a broad view of things, knowing that the world is not included within the limits of our own Province and Dominion, and that we are part and parcel of wider currents of intellect and thought. If we maintain the traditions which we have inherited from our British forefathers, there is no future too proud, or too glorious for this country. When I think of the progress we have made and are making, it brings back to me the speech in "Julius Caesar," which is put into the mouth of Brutus. "There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." We are on that tide. We have the full tide with us if we use our advantages. I also remember with Horatian Maxim that "when fortune blows with too propitious gale, take half your canvas in." As Kipling says, "Lest we forget"; therefore let us remember to whom we owe all our present benefits. By losing our traditions, and sinking to a purely material level, we would forfeit our birthright and pass to the list of nations that, although they have had a history, they have ceased to be factors in the world's progress.