



National Conference on Moral Education in the Schools in Relation to Canadian Citizenship

In common with the rest of the civilized world, Canadian communities have been profoundly impressed, through the revelations of the great war, with the necessity of emphasizing in the strongest possible way the educational activities that make for the formation of character and that tend to promote a high standard of individual and national life. While it is recognized that the ethical aim has always been present in the schools, it is well known that the diverse racial and religious elements of which our people are composed have hitherto made any attempt at organized moral education difficult. Misunderstandings, mutual distrust, inability to agree on content or method have prevented the co-operation necessary to effective action. It is believed, however, that many prejudices that formerly obscured essentials have disappeared as a consequence of the war and that the time is opportune for emphasizing the importance of character training as a preparation for citizenship. At the outset of the great struggle from which we have just emerged, the world was confronted with a people of some sixty millions thinking and feeling as one man in a conspiracy to subject the world to the domination of the German race. This unity of thought and purpose was the outcome of carefully planned and energetically conducted educational propaganda beginning in the elementary schools and carried on by university, church and press. If the energy of an entire people could be enlisted and directed by means of its educational agencies towards an evil purpose, it is believed that the same factors would be even more effective if set in motion for a righteous end. In this belief a number of gentle-