



## Canada and the Empire

BY MISS E. L. BARTLETT, B.A.

Topic for Jan. 22.

(In order to add to the interest of this first patriotic evening of the year have appropriate singing and scripture lesson. Many suitable passages may be found, such as Deut. 11: 8-25; Ps. 23 or Ps. 67. During the service sing some of the following national anthems: "The Maple Leaf Forever" or "Oh, Canada." If the song "Oh Canada" is not familiar to all have it sung by a male chorus or quartette. Close with "God Bless Our Native Land" and "God Save the King.")

The British Empire, to which Canada belongs, is not an empire in the strict sense of the term. It has received this name solely on account of its immense size, for its head is not an emperor, but a king. Although the king is called an emperor as well, it is only as the ruler of India that he has the right to this title. All the divisions of the empire were originally called colonies or settlements, because emigrants went from Great Britain (England and Scotland), and Ireland, to take up land or "settle" in them. All of these colonies were governed by men whom Great Britain appointed for the purpose. At present the colonies are in three classes—protectorates, crown colonies and independent colonies.

Where native races are left under their own rulers, Great Britain maintaining a general oversight through a specially appointed representative, the government is known as a *protectorate*.

Some colonies which have not a population suited for self government as those situated in the tropics, where native races are not highly civilized, are placed wholly or partly under the administration of persons chosen by Great Britain. These are called *crown colonies*.

Other colonies which possess a sufficiently large and suitable population are allowed to govern themselves. These are the Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand, Newfoundland, the South African colonies and the Dominion of Canada.

At this point briefly sketch historically the growth of Canada from the time it was merely a few collections of huts under French rule to the present time when it stands among the foremost countries of the globe. (See "Our Canadian Heritage," E. L. Reading Course, 1905, Chap. III.) Now particularly the decisive periods such as the capture of Quebec in 1759 by the English, which first made Canada a British colony, the loss of the thirteen American States in 1776, which made Canada all the more important to England, and the war of 1812-14, in which the early Canadian provinces were exposed to grave danger on account of the young and ambitious republic to the south. From this time up to the time of the British North American Act we find Canada a struggling colony but gradually gaining in strength, and as a result receiving from Great Britain an ever-increasing power in the control of her affairs of state, religion and education. Finally in 1867 the Home Government handed over all affairs of the Canadian Government to the Canadians themselves, and the Dominion of Canada was established under its present system of self-government. Canada has now the right of appointing representatives to make treaties and other arrangements with foreign

nations. Such men are appointed as representatives of Great Britain as well, and are considered as such by foreign states.

We Canadian citizens are also citizens of the British Empire, and His Majesty has guaranteed to us freedom and protection as such. The great principles of liberty which have been so fully recognized for centuries as prominent features of English rule are inherent rights of Canadians. The humblest subject in the Dominion may feel that, if necessary, the power of the greatest nation of the earth will be exercised to preserve his rights if those rights are assailed. The great English law, the most important of which is the Magna Charta, the great statute of English liberty, are also charters of Canadian freedom.

Canadians have equal privileges with the citizens of Great Britain and the additional protection of the Mother Land. This idea has been fittingly expressed by the poet when he said of Canada

"Daughter is she in her mother's house,  
But mistress in her own."

## "The Duties of a Canadian Citizen"

Topic for January 29th.

SUITABLE SCRIPTURE LESSONS: Ps. 101; Dan. 9: 1-19; 1 Tim. 2: 1-7.

This subject divides itself into three parts, viz.: (1) What is a Canadian citizen? (2) What are the privileges of a Canadian citizen? (3) What are the duties of a Canadian citizen in return for these privileges? Have these parts discussed in short papers or talks by three league members.

1. The meaning of the word "citizen" is clearly explained in Chap. IV, "Canadian Citizenship" (by Miller), which was included in the E. L. Reading Course of a few years ago. "The New Citizenship" (by Batten) was also read by many in the same course. Consult chapter 10 in preparing for your meeting. It will give you valuable helps. Still another book that many of our older members have on their shelves is "Our Canadian Heritage" (by Wightman), chapters 8 and 9 are excellent on this topic and may be read with profit. It will be advisable also to study the meaning of the word as given in any of the standard dictionaries, which are easily within the reach of all.

2. *The Privileges of a Canadian Citizen*.—All inhabitants of Canada, whether they are old enough to vote or not, enjoy what may be called civil rights. A man may pursue unmolested any occupation he may choose for a living, he may reside where he wishes, and attend any church he desires. Another important civil right which every citizen enjoys is that of personal liberty. The right to a writ of *habeas corpus*, which prevents a person from being kept in prison without a trial belongs to every British subject. Another civil right allows a person to hold property in his own name, and this property is under government protection.

The most important political right of citizens is that of the suffrage. A property qualification in Canada is no longer required to enable a person to vote for

members of parliament, so that almost every man may have his name on the voters' list and have a voice in the government of his country.

3. *The Duties of a Citizen*.—No citizen should expect to enjoy all these privileges without taking upon himself a corresponding responsibility for the welfare of the State.

(a) The first duty of a citizen is to obey the laws. A good citizen will also do his utmost to enforce the laws.

(b) A citizen should take an active part in public affairs. It has been said that "constitutions are not worth the paper on which they are written, and precedents not worth the time spent in remembering and recording them if the citizens do not take an interest in the affairs of State." He should vote for good men and good principles, and get other men to do the same. Political questions should be carefully studied, and thus the moral standard of politics will be raised.

(c) Citizens should study and understand the system of government and keep themselves informed of the important acts of those in authority.

(d) The citizen should cultivate a patriotism which is right in the State, and should assist, as far as possible, all good causes. One of the best examples of this lies in the fact that the citizens have in their power to drive the evils of intemperance from our land.

(e) All citizens should respect religion. Nothing can be found to take its place in the life of the people, and a nation that scoffs at religion is in grave peril. It is the only force strong enough to resist those tendencies, which, if unchecked will bring on rapid national decay and ruin.

(f) A good citizen aids the commercial life of his State by encouraging home industries. Queen Victoria set a good example in this at the time of her coronation, when she expressed the wish that the people of England should honor the occasion by dressing in the products of England.

(g) Patriotism and honor for the Mother Land are by no means the least of the duties of a Canadian citizen. The patriotic spirit and love of the flag should be, and is instilled in the minds of the young in the schools of our Dominion. Especial attention should be paid to this just at present, so that the children of the foreigner may become "loyal sons of Canada" as well as the young native born Canadians.

## Big Facts for a "Canada" Evening

Canada has the largest consecutive wheat field in the world, 900 x 300 miles.

Canada has the most prolific and extensive fisheries in the world, as well as some of the greatest salmon rivers.

Canada has the largest grain mills in the British Empire, those of the Lake of the Woods Milling Company, at Keewatin, capacity 10,500 barrels of flour in twenty-four hours.

Canada has the largest grain elevators in the world.

Canada has the largest lift lock in the world—at Peterborough, Ont.

The longest known coal seam in the world—at Sault Ste. Marie.

Canada has the largest nickel mines in the world.

Canada has the largest zinc smelter in the world—at Frank, Alberta.

The deepest known coal seam in the world is in Nova Scotia.

Canada has one of the highest tides in the world—59½ ft.—in Noel Bay, Minas Basin, Bay of Fundy.

The L.P.R. 150-mile yard in Winnipeg is the longest in the Empire.

Canada contains one-third of area of

British  
Fifty per  
in provin  
Canada  
McKenzi  
larger th  
Canada  
miles of  
the far  
Eighty  
north of  
only S.  
water.

Sh  
(Th  
Scott—

W  
begun  
The we  
katherin  
possible  
Our tim  
though  
this gre  
twice th  
next la  
country  
generati  
bilities o  
of prair  
"frozen  
istics ar  
still wai  
a row o  
cannot f  
Within  
enough  
dazzle th  
are but  
great ric  
of our  
Factin  
develop  
dians, fr  
prise ar  
rich. O  
more th  
that su  
consume  
pauper,  
of other  
not im  
are neve  
two far  
Canada,  
of their  
loss for  
excess  
able for  
their en  
well, he  
arrange  
deman  
a produ  
the dir  
world l  
the sam  
new lav  
human  
Since  
in the  
er, adj  
man or  
tion to  
spirit.  
classes  
of an  
almost  
normal  
and whe  
perative  
tive, t  
has be  
standar  
from the