

## The Claims of Citizenship.

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TO RECOGNIZE the claims of citizenship and to discharge its duties should be considered a privilege by every right-thinking man. Unfortunately, our ideas on the subject are not very clear and in spite of our boasted enlightenment the responsibilities of citizenship in this country are by far too many men carried indifferently. Apparently few realize that today Canadians stand on the threshold of opportunity. In a special sense "the twentieth century is Canada's century." We have a country of vast proportions to govern. It is rapidly filling with peoples of various ideals and nationalities. Our resources of farm, forest and mine are valuable beyond our powers to estimate. Then, for decades we have been over-shadowed by a huge aggregation of badly ruled commonwealths—rich, powerful and aggressive—keen to drive hard bargains in diplomacy and trade, and whose social problems are the most complex in Christendom. If Canada is to keep her status and her people are to build a strong nation upon the broad and solid foundations laid in the blood of our fathers, the man of today must do some hard thinking, must become public spirited and make preparations for the future. It is humiliating, and yet the fact cannot be denied, that there is a strong tendency among Canadians to follow United States practice and live a selfish life. Our own traditions, the teachings of history and the models of the Old World are forgotten or ignored. Comparatively few men are today public spirited. Each one lives and works for himself, and for himself alone. This fact manifests itself among all classes, rural as well as urban.

In the towns and cities of Canada the adoption of "American" methods in business and in politics is becoming notorious and the end is not yet; while the love of luxury, the fondness of ostentation and the mad rush for more gold, or the excessive commercialism of the age, coupled with uninterrupted prosperity, make for extreme selfishness and render the city man as indifferent to public needs and public responsibilities as he is ignorant of public duties and opportunities. It seems to