

government of the country—whether in the municipal sphere, the provincial or the federal—they each afford splendid opportunity for service. It is the common story that the educated, intelligent classes are disfranchised by their own indifference and by the false pernicious notion that politics is unclean. The salvation of democracy depends absolutely upon the salvation of politics. That is the body of the people must become intelligently and patriotically interested in politics and unless they do they must expect their government institutions to gravitate into the hands of the bosses, grafters and soap-box orators.

This spirit of "*laissez faire*" of the cultured classes to the duties of citizenship is nowhere more in evidence than in the indifference manifested by the great majority of our citizens to our systems of education. Many of these people do not send their children to the public schools and as a consequence take only the most perfunctory interest, if any, in them. It is to the public school we must look for the direction of the trend of thought which is to dominate the minds of the men of tomorrow. It is the one institution where the principles of loyalty, patriotism and service can be authoritatively taught. It is to the public school we must look for the instruction of our alien immigrant population in the science of democratic government. The common school is the fabric upon which the promise of a better Canadian citizenship is being erected.

Lest it may be thought we are pleading for counsels of perfection, let us look at a few facts as to our educational standing. In Canada, according to the last figures available, one man in every ten of the Canadian born entitled