

# THE O. A. C. REVIEW

THE DIGNITY OF A CALLING IS ITS UTILITY.

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## The Canadians of the Future

R. FRASER, '10.

[The Annual Oratorical Contest was won by Mr. Fraser, with "The Canadians of the Future" as his subject. The following article is Mr. Fraser's speech, quoted verbatim, hence the oratorical style.—Editor.]

IN the life of every nation there arise great problems—problems which involve religious beliefs, social customs, racial characteristics, and political government, and upon the solving of these problems depends to a large extent the future welfare of the nation's people. Particularly is this true of a young country whose national life is still in its infancy and whose growth and development are just beginning. There will come critical moments in the life of that young nation when she will find herself face to face with these great problems, and all the wisdom of her statesmen and all the loyalty of her citizens must rise up and meet these national difficulties if the future happiness and prosperity of her people is to be assured.

In speaking to you to-night upon the Immigration Problem in Canada, we are considering what is without doubt one of the greatest national problems that the Canadian people are confronted with at the present day—a question upon which depends the progress and development of a mighty nation—the Canada of the future.

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If I were to ask you upon what the greatness of a nation depends, you

would immediately answer, "Upon the qualities of its citizenship," and citizenship is simply the relation of a people to their ruler and to each other. The true ideals of citizenship are not only those of certain individuals—they must be the ideals which guide the aspirations of the entire nation, for without national aspirations there can be no worthy progressive national life. It is only in the cherishing of these lofty ideals that we can hope to bring honor to ourselves as a people, and it is *now* in the early morning of our great work of nation-building, that these ideals must be wrought into the rapidly uprising framework of our national structure. To-morrow grows out of to-day, and the aspirations and activities of the present determine the channels along which the current of our future national life shall flow.

To-night I want to present to you as Canadian citizens two principal thoughts, and I cannot lay too much emphasis upon either of them.

The first is that this is the formative period in the national life of Canada and that it is for us, the Canadian citizens of the present, to largely determine what the future of our country shall be.