

THE HICKORY GROVE CONVENTION

A few of the articles by prominent Canadians on national topics, impossible to include last week in our eight pages of short nationalizing talks.

The Canadian Boy

J. O. Miller

(Principal, Ridley College.)

THROUGHOUT the British Empire there is nothing more precious than the Canadian boy. On this continent he is the hope of the race. In a remarkable book called "The Passing of the Great Race," by Madison Grant, the author says:

"Personally, the writer believes that the finest and purest type of a Nordic community outside of Europe will develop in north-west Canada. Most of the other countries in which the Nordic race is now settling lie outside of the special environment in which alone it can flourish."

Hitherto the slogan of free democracies has been "go as you please." There has, so far, been little thought of conserving for the good of the State any special human elements that make for its pre-eminence. The Canadian boy has not yet come into his own.

As a type of vigorous boyhood there is nothing in the world superior to the Canadian lad. His physique is magnificent, his body well nourished, after he has once survived the modern substitutes for mother's milk, and he usually enters upon the period of adolescence physically better equipped than the boy of any other race. In temperament he is characterized by a vast amount of nervous energy; in fact, energy, perhaps somewhat unorganized is the distinguishing mark of Canadian youth.

He possesses what makes for the highest type of intelligence, an open and clear mind—open, clear and flexible, but not as yet subjected to the wisest sort of training.

Another priceless characteristic is his initiative. A boy's equipment for life consists in character, industry, efficiency and initiative. The first three constitute about one-half of his assets; initiative embraces the other half.

What are his defects? Lack of training in his first decade; ignorance of self-discipline; a fatal tendency to waste his splendid initiative. The average Canadian small boy suffers from a rather inefficient type of mother, and the older lad from a still less efficient type of father. The aim of the average parent is to give the boy "a good time," and not to train him to put ambition for achievement before the fleeting pleasures of the moment.

How many Canadian parents keep dearly in view the sacred duty of training boys for the service of the State and of the race? Our Ministers of Education have yet to see this vision. When all realize that Canada is the "procreant cradle" of the highest type of the world's manhood, we shall spend many times our present outlay in effort and money upon the Canadian boy. Then he will come into his own.

Centralizing History

George H. Locke,

Chief Librarian, Toronto

THE Editor of this Journal must belong to what our quondam friend Logan called the pragmatic-technical school when he asks one to compress his knowledge and much of his life work into three hundred words.

I presume that all will agree with me that a knowledge of the history of one's country would make one a better and a more satisfactory citizen. Such agreement does not involve

thought or action and is therefore popular. But let us make it concrete and personal. We are living in a country which has a long, interesting and romantic history. I thought this was not a debatable subject until I saw, in a late issue of the London Chronicle, an article describing the Canadians in which our boys are spoken of in specially glowing terms because they came from a land from which one could hardly expect such intelligence, a land that has no history, the land of the coyote and the waterfall. True, the writer belonged to the "Madge" school of journalism, but I was surprised to see this pass the censor of the Chronicle.

This country is peopled largely by those who, as they say of those living in Chicago, were not born here. Therefore their historical background is not Canadian. And it is difficult to change the background. There is one part of our social fabric which one cannot buy, and that is tradition, the background of the ages which furnishes the experiences out of which comes that emotion known as patriotism. The grown person may change his allegiance, but it is well nigh impossible to rid himself of the attachment to the land of his fathers. This war has shown that in some very interesting aspects. Again, there are some who are natives of this soil, but whose historical backgrounds are hazy and indistinct.

We are confronted then in this country with the fact that the great proportion of our citizens know but little of our history, and therefore there is but little chance of a Canadian point of view. The proof of this lack of Canadian historical background is illustrated on almost every public platform, Sabbaths, as well as week-days, and is woefully apparent at the times of elections to our Houses of Parliament. To us who feel that this is a serious problem and who recognize the impossibility of doing much with adult persons who are to a very large extent well set in their views, the hope of our country seems to lie in the boys and girls who will soon be in command of our public affairs. That these may become acquainted in an interesting and sympathetic manner with our four centuries of history seems to me the greatest help towards the development of a Canadian national sentiment and the cultivation of a Canadian national judgment.

The method of approach in which I am interested is not through the school. That is the province of others. My position as a business man interested in the development of intelligent citizenship is in an entirely different method of approach. Having at my disposal a public institution known as a Public Library, I am enabled to develop it into an educational institution founded on allurements and developing its students into boys and girls able to think and act for themselves. We have attacked the problem in a businesslike manner. We recognized the fact that "the story's the thing." All the world loves a story and therefore we proposed, through our Department for Boys and Girls, to tell each week stories of those who were identified with the early life of Canada. Indeed, one might well say that a pertinent question for solution was, "Why are the French in Canada?" And so we told the stories of the great Frenchmen, the gentleman adventurers dear to the heart of everyone who is young in spirit, of Jacques Cartier, Champlain, Frontenac, Radisson, La Salle, Joliet, Verendrye, and with their

lives came the unrolling of a map of a new world. And even so of the Englishmen who have succeeded them until we have introduced tens of thousands of boys and girls into a world of romance and discovery, a world of struggle against great odds, of conquests not only of men, but of nature, and all these men were Canadians and this was a Canadian world.

We, frankly, are Nationalists because we believe that in this way we can, as I said before, develop a Canadian sentiment and a Canadian judgment.

This is not the only way, but it is our way and our success has been measured only by our financial means. We haven't any patent method for the reformation of Canada. Our aim is to develop the boys and girls of Toronto into sensible citizens who have knowledge of their own country and its traditions and who will become what we have all been urged to be, "wiser than our fathers." That history may be made interesting, and especially the history of Canada has been proved by our experience of the last four years where our only worry has been to keep the numbers who wanted to come to the "Story Hour" down to what we call a satisfactory maximum.

True Canadian Nationalism

Paul Emile LaMarche,

(Montreal)

CANADIAN Nationalism is, in my opinion, the most adequate expression of sound patriotism on the part of any Canadian-born citizen.

It should also prove to be the most acceptable ideal for the man who has made this land the native country of his sons and daughters.

It consists in putting the ultimate interests of Canada over and above all others, even when they conflict with those of the Empire.

Canadian Nationalism is at the antipodes of Imperialism and moves in an opposite direction.

Its object is to defend the established principles of Canadian self-government, and to acquire from time to time an ever-increasing autonomy.

It must be free from racialism and from religious sectarianism; therefore, it must, in the light of the Constitution, demand equal treatment for all races and creeds.

Nationalism must not be confined to one province or to any particular section of the country. As its name implies, it must be nation-wide.

In true Canadian Nationalism lies that common ideal which will insure for generations to come an everlasting national unity.

Such was the spirit which prevailed in the minds of the Fathers of Confederation in 1867.

Let us not pass this Jubilee year without giving this subject a serious and patriotic consideration.

Canadian Clubs

Charles R. McCullough,

(Hamilton)

RECOGNIZING the deep importance to Canada of the cultivation of a spirit of patriotism in the hearts of her people (and particularly of the young men on whom will rest the duties of the future), and in view of the fact that no nation in history