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A CALL TO WORTHY CITIZENSHIP

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THE Apostle Paul, in one of those sublime and sweeping sentences in which he hitches the wagon of an important practical duty to the star of a lofty, Divine principle, says, "Only let your citizenship be worthy of the Gospel of Christ, striving together as athletes for the faith of the Gospel." If we be Christians then we must conform the ideals and practices of our civic and social life to the Divine imperatives of the sacred revelation, subordinating everything to the highest welfare of the State.

Let me, therefore, congratulate the Epworth Leagues upon the establishment of a new Department called "Citizenship." May it be a means of developing high sentiments of honor and civic responsibility in all who have the privilege of exercising the franchise in the government of our country.

Civilization is a process of evolution looking towards the perfection of social power and social well-being. Concurrently with this social development, civilization must carry with it the development of the individual if it is to have permanence as well as harmony. Both these objects must be kept in mind or our civilization will halt and fail. It follows that it is the duty of each citizen to preserve the balance of power between these two principles, the individual and the social, and while doing this to give to each its utmost vigor.

To say that man exists simply for the development of a higher or even a perfect social state is to deny that he carries in himself something superior to his existence in this world, namely, an immortal soul. In truth, after a man has devoted himself to the utmost for the benefit of society, there remains to be fulfilled the high purpose of those faculties by which he comes into communion with God and anticipates a future life. The destiny of the individual being higher and more permanent than that

of the State, it follows that it must not be neglected while seeking social good.

With this caution we bid you Godspeed in developing a sense of personal responsibility for the conditions of our civic and national life.

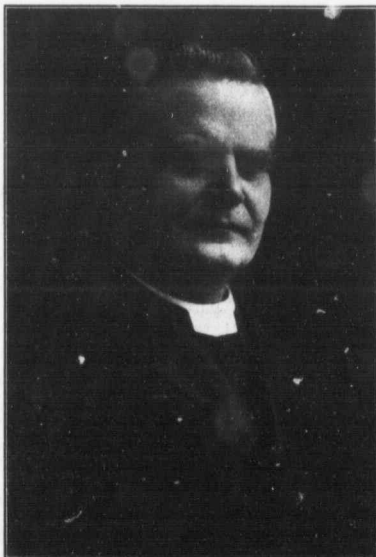
Canada is one of the largest nations on the earth, but we Canadians are called upon always to remember

that extent of territory affords only a material opportunity for greatness. All wise men recognize that. It is important to fill up our territory. It is much more important to build up a sense of nationhood amongst the total population. Canada contains one-sixth of the land of the world and is one-third of the total territory of the British Empire. But what are these if we have not men to match our mountains; men who have a vision wide as the far-flung prairies? At present it is said we have not two persons to the square mile, while the United States has twenty-one, Great Britain three hundred and twelve, and England regarded as standing alone, five hundred and eighty-eight.

Sparse as our population is, we feel a very healthy displeasure at being called a Colony, and delight to denominate ourselves a nation. We even desire to be known as one of a number of Imperial States. This being so, we must prepare ourselves not only to carry the bur-

dens which must fall upon a young nation, but also to be ready worthily to adorn and illustrate the noble traditions of the British Empire.

I strongly commend to you the saying of William Jennings Bryan, "I have faith in the wisdom of doing right." That sentence should be blazoned upon the crest of every citizen of Canada, and my best wish for the Epworth Leaguers of our Church is that it should control them in every public responsibility they may be called upon to bear.



GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT CHOWN