

## IV.

**I believe in doing my duty towards Canada as a loyal British subject, striving to uphold the rights of freedom within it as a commonwealth of provinces safe-guarded by its own national unity and hereditary courage.**

The Governor-General of Canada is the vice-regal representative of the Royal Monarch who rules over the whole British Empire. Like the King himself, he reigns over, rather than rules, the provinces united under the constitutional federacy known as the Dominion of Canada and under the constitutional advice of his Ministers of the Crown. And the duty of all Canadians towards Canada is embodied primarily in a loyalty towards the administration of public affairs by the Ministers of the Crown chosen to rule for the time being. The Act of Confederation is the constitutional warrant for our Canadian freedom, and cannot be amended or abrogated but by the authority of the British Parliament and with the sanction of the King. Our loyalty towards Canada is therefore constitutionally parallel with our loyalty towards the Empire, thus establishing the status of every Canadian as a British subject. In measuring a Canadian's civic rights, there can be no narrowing of them down to the province in which he lives. His birthright of citizenship has the sanction of the King of England, the Governor-General of Canada, the two Houses of Parliament of Great Britain and the two Houses of Parliament of Canada. A Canadian, who has a quarrel with his status of citizenship and would change the constitution of the country in order to raise it or lower it, is hardly likely to escape a charge of treason against one or more of the pillars of the State that have been raised for the protection of his citizenship. The Canadian Commonwealth has been well safeguarded by those who were in at the laying of its foundations, fifty years ago and more, and it is little short of treason for a Canadian even to dream of interrupting its progress towards a lasting national unity under the auspices of a King, a Governor-General, and no less than four Houses of Parliament, not to speak of the various federal and provincial constituencies within the borders of Canada itself.

Canadians are on the way of seeing that their duty towards Canada is all but one and the same thing as their duty in upholding and maturing a Canadian national unity. The welfare of Canada as a whole and its perpetuation as a one and undivided community of provinces indicate what a Canadian's duty towards Canada means in