

C 203002

CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship is the proudest title attaching to any individual. Citizenship is also the fullest honour which any nation can confer upon the individual within the state. If it is a gift given freely, it has, by that very quality, a responsibility which rests in especial measure upon everyone who receives it.

Citizenship is also the basic expression of the larger loyalties which surround the individual. From the days in which the Apostle Paul was proud to say, "I am a citizen of no mean ~~city~~", it has been to the local community, as an organized expression of society, that the first civil responsibility has been owed. The Greek city-state carried local patriotism to a high degree; but even in that relatively organized society the local loyalty later gave way to an expanding loyalty. In one sense, that loyalty has been expanding ever since. The fact that science and the ingenuity of man have combined to circumscribe the bounds of distance and ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> limits of space has brought home to each individual the "concentric loyalties" which surround him.

There is, now as in the past, the responsibility of the citizen to his local community - the area to which his title of "citizen" properly applies. In Canada, as our civil government has developed, there are certain other responsibilities which attach to individuals as residents of a particular province. Many more responsibilities attach to that area of citizenship in which we are especially interested this evening - and that is to Canada as a whole. Even beyond this area which concerns all the citizens of Canada, for whose benefit and on whose behalf the general government of Canada proceeds, there are responsibilities to the fraternity of nations which we know as the British Commonwealth of Nations. It is certainly a high expression of ~~our~~ "citizenship" that peoples of half-a-dozen