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Good Citizenship

ITS IDEALS
ITS BASIS
ITS DUTIES

REV. D. C. MACGREGOR, B.A.

Patriotic Sunday, June 30th, 1912

*Any SPECIAL OFFERING given on Patriotic Sunday WILL APPLY
on the congregation's share UNDER THE BUDGET.*

The Board of Social Service and Evangelism
Presbyterian Church in Canada
436 Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

**The Work of the Board of Social Service
and Evangelism includes :**

The Problem of the City ; The Promotion of Personal, Social and Political Purity ; Redemptive Work for Girls ; Sabbath Observance ; Conduct of Conferences, Retreats, Institutes and Missions of Evangelism.

The Suppression of Gambling, Intemperance, Immoral Literature, The White Slave Traffic, and all forms of Social Vice.

Literature on all phases of the work.

For list of pamphlets, etc., published by the Board,
see page 8.

GOOD CITIZENSHIP*

I. ITS IDEALS

(a) *Political*—That the people of Canada may be united, free and great ; that her citizens may be intelligent, enlightened and incorruptible ; that her legislators may be men of the highest integrity and devotion.

“He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.”
2 Samuel 23 : 3.

(b) *Social*—That the commercial, industrial and business life of our country may be characterized by honesty and justice ; that all industrial strife may cease and that the spirit of brotherhood may prevail.

“The one Divine work,—the one ordered sacrifice,—is to do justice.”—
Ruskin.

(c) *Moral*—That the people may be strong in character, virile, self-reliant, industrious, honest, reliable and efficient.

“Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.”
—Proverbs 14 : 34.

(d) *Religious*—That Canada may be a nation whose God is the Lord ; a nation which realizes that all true national greatness and prosperity spring, not from industry, commerce, or science, but from faith in God.

“For the nation and kingdom that will not serve Thee shall perish ; yea those nations shall be utterly wasted.”—Isaiah 60 : 12.

II. ITS BASIS

“Fame is vapor” said Horace Greeley, when dying, “popularity an accident, riches take wings, those who cheer to-day will curse to-morrow, only one thing endures,—character.”

*This pamphlet is prepared in the hope that it may prove helpful and suggestive to ministers and Sunday School Superintendents in preparing addresses for Patriotic Sunday, June 30th, 1912.

Character is the basis of all good citizenship and all national greatness ; nations do not die for want of wealth nor want of power but for want of character.

“Within the problem of a better social order lies the problem of a better man.”—Peabody.

The moral well-being of the people must be the supreme consideration of all legislation, education and religion. The making of character must proceed along two lines :

(1) The removal of all degrading conditions. It is the function of the State to provide a healthy environment in which a strong character may develop. All vicious surroundings should be removed, all insanitary conditions cleared away, all forces of evil suppressed.

(2) The transforming and moulding of the individual life. Here the school, the church and the home must co-operate with the State.

(a) *The School*—The end of education is to produce upright and capable citizens. Surely then it is of great importance to teach the child how to live aright. The great defect of education in the past has been that, while much attention has been given to the arts and sciences, sufficient emphasis has not been placed upon moral qualities, such as Temperance, Purity, Industry, Self-Control. It is of the greatest consequence for the future citizenship of the country that a high ideal of manhood and womanhood should ever be held before the minds of the pupils.

(b) *The Church*—The work of the church is fundamental ; make the tree good and you make the fruit good. It is useless to expect strong character apart from the transforming power of the grace of God, the Gospel message is essential.

But more is needed ; young lives must be protected against degrading influences which abound on every hand. The church must adapt her methods to meet the needs of her young people every day of the week. She must displace evil by providing the good. An angel must tenant the house or seven devils will soon appear.

(c) *The Home*—The home should be the greatest institution of all in the making of good citizens. The function of the home cannot be superseded by the church, the school or the state. No other influence has so much to do with the formation of the character of a child as the teaching, the example,

and the ideals of father and mother in the home. Every father should be a priest in his own household, and he can never delegate to another the responsibility laid upon him by God. The sense of parental responsibility needs quickening. It is the duty of the parents to bring up their children in ways of righteousness and obedience, honesty and truthfulness.

"The foundations of national glory are set in the homes of the people. They will only remain unshaken while the family life of our race and nation is strong, simple and pure." (His Majesty King George V.)

III. ITS DUTIES

(1) *Political*—(a) It is the duty of every good citizen to understand and inquire into the government of his country to see where it can be improved or reformed. Good laws are essential to the well-being of the people. Gladstone held that a law was good in so far as it made it easy for people to do right and hard for them to do wrong.

Law is nothing but crystallized public opinion. Law is the expression of the will of the people. In a democracy the responsibility for all legislation, good or bad, lies at the door of the individual citizen. The good citizen will endeavor to secure such legislation as will promote virtue, restrain vice and guarantee justice to every individual however humble.

(b) To secure enforcement of the law.

From almost every part of Canada complaints are received regarding lax enforcement of law. In some cases the Compulsory Education Law is not well enforced.

In others there is a violation of the Liquor License Act and Prohibitory Laws, and in others conditions of vice are tolerated, which come under the Criminal Code of the country.

This shows that every law needs a personality behind it in order that it may be effectively administered. Too often the citizen feels his duty is done when a good law is enacted ; he forgets that law is only effective when it is enforced. Experience shows that in the main officials will enforce a law only when there is an aggressive and determined public opinion behind it. It is the duty of the good citizen to create a sympathy with all righteous legislation and to see that it is impartially enforced. Many a good law is rendered worse than useless because it is not seriously enforced owing to the apathy and indifference of good people who worked energetically for its enactment.

(c) To use the franchise. Sovereign power belongs to the people. The ballot is a sacred trust. Through it power is given to every citizen to secure the righting of wrongs and the embodiment of justice in legislation. How often a good cause languishes or is defeated through indifference of Christian men, while the forces of evil are active. In ancient Athens it was punishable by law for a citizen to fail to appear at the town or tribunal meeting to record his vote.

Indifference to national and civic duties always results in injustice being done. It gives an opportunity to the crafty and the designing man,—the the grafter, the gambler, the brewer,—who always takes an active part in public affairs, to control the machinery of the Government for his own selfish interest.

The greatest danger in a democracy is the large number of citizens who have no conviction, who blindly vote party, or whose vote and influence can be bought for business inducements, for drink, or for vulgar cash. There is no hope for a nation whose citizens and representatives are corruptible.

(d) To elect as representatives men of the highest personal integrity.

(1) To secure an effective administration of law.

Many a good law is defeated in its purpose, because men are elected to administer it who are out of sympathy with all moral legislation.

(2) To present a high ideal of duty.

It is important that the multitudes coming to our land shall have presented to them a high ideal of duty and of character. Their standard will be determined largely by the standard of those elected or appointed to positions of power. If these are men of irreproachable character, of a high sense of duty, they will do much to influence the newcomer towards the highest national and personal ideals. If, on the other hand, they are men who use their positions for selfish purposes and are not faithful in the administration of law, the effect on the immigrant will be disastrous.

(2) *Social*—(a) To study the problems of the country. As for example :

(i.) Immigration : Immigrants form the raw material of the Canadian citizenship of to-morrow. It is difficult to decide upon the best immigration policy in order that our national ideals and our free institutions may not suffer. Love of country and love of Christ urge us to consider the problem of Immigration. (Write for pamphlet, "Strangers Within our Gates".)

(ii.) Problems of Capital and Labor. These should be matters of intelligent consideration and well advised action by those who understand and do their duty as citizens. (See Minutes of last year dealing with the Church and Social Questions.)

(b) To combat organized forces of evil in the nation, as for example, the liquor traffic, gambling, social evil. (Literature on all these may be obtained from the Department.)

(3) *Religious*—To make provision for the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Education and legislation are important, but the most powerful factor in the making of a nation is evangelization. There is no power like the Gospel to destroy race jealousies, break down the bars of prejudice and draw all peoples into unity, and brotherhood and liberty. Only when the spirit of Christ prevails will the Golden Rule dominate the lives of men.

“There is neither Greek nor Jew . . . Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free : but Christ is all and in all.” Col. 3 : 11.



Partial List of Booklets, Pamphlets, etc., Issued by the Board

Sample copies of all leaflets are sent free on application.

The following booklets are furnished by the Board FREE OF COST :
The Problem of Social Vice in Winnipeg—*Rev. F. B. Duval, D.D.*
Reading Course in Social Science.
The Presbyterian Brotherhood—Its Work.
Presbyterian Brotherhood—Bible Study Courses and Subjects for Debate.
How to Organize a Brotherhood.

Prices of the following on application :

The Social Evil—Toleration Condemned—*Mr. Recorder Weir, D.C.L.*
The White Slave Traffic—*Hon. Edwin W. Sims.*
The Crime of Prostitution—*Sir Henri Taschereau.*
Judge Robson's Report on Winnipeg Investigation.
The Girl That Goes Wrong—*Kauffman.*
The Double Standard of Morals and Social Diseases—*Dr. Chas. W. Elliot.*
Social Vice and How to Deal With It.
Canada's War on the White Slave Trade.
Reports of Chicago and Minneapolis Vice Commissions.
National Ideals and Perils.
The Use of Tobacco, also The Cigarette—*Orison Swett Marden.*
The Strangers Within Our Gates.
Political Impurity and How to Deal With It.
Law Enforcement in Canada.
Local Prohibition—Its Effect on Business.
What the Catholic Church Says About Temperance and the Bar Room.
Labor and the Liquor Question.
The Attitude of Capital to the Liquor Traffic.
Pledge Signing in Sunday Schools.
What the Traffic Says About Itself.
Science and Alcohol.
What the Traffic Costs Our Country.
Shall I Drink ?—*Robert E. Speer.*
Policy on Temperance Reform.
Why is it Wrong to Gamble ?—*Ven. Archdeacon Cody, LL.D.*
Our Laws Affecting Morals and Their Enforcement.
The Problem of the City.

For complete list of Literature including that on Evangelism, send card to the Board.