

### Our Country.

Dealing with the second half of our motto, 'Country,' we must bear in mind that the homes are the country's first line of defence, and that no country is greater than the homes in which its people live. There never was a time in the history of Canada when loyal citizens were not needed to guide and direct its policy against all kinds of evil and corruption which slowly but surely will drag any country to its doom. By the attitude some persons adopt one would think they owed nothing to the land of their birth or adoption. Is it nothing to us that we are a part of the great Commonwealth of Nations under the Union Jack? Do we realize that foreign powers look with longing eyes at our country with all its potential wealth, and with only eleven million population? Do we realize that we are not adequately prepared to defend ourselves? In spite of this there are so many who insist it is our duty to remain neutral in times of dispute and even war. But it said, however, we could not long maintain our neutrality should conflict ever occur.

During the past ten years many people have been forced to leave this country because they could not make their living. Through no especial fault of their own during this depression they lost all that they had; they were good honorable citizens who did not want relief, but work! After giving 25 of the best years of their life to Canada they finally had to return to England with their children born Canadians. Can we afford to allow this to continue while nationalities from other countries in Central Europe keep increasing in number within our Dominion. We need more population of British stock, the kind of people our fathers and mothers and grandfathers were. We need more loyalty to the British Commonwealth of Nations, of which we are a part. We need more unselfishness in our homes and in our country, and above

all we need homes that have a moral and spiritual foundation, that are in the very truth, "the spot on earth supremely best."

At the conclusion of the meeting refreshments were served by the lunch committee composed of Mrs. J. Lloyd, Mrs. L. McGowan, Mrs. E. Carr, and Mrs. William Harris, and a social hour much enjoyed.

"So much" for our relations with the rest of the world. Now consider matters within our own country. Surely they call for earnest thought. I hope you have listened to the speeches of George McCullagh during the past five weeks. Irrespective of what your political views may be, I am sure that you could not help being impressed with the fact that some drastic change is needed in our outlook on conditions within Canada. We must wake and face the facts as they present themselves. We must sink personal feelings for the good of the whole—an instance where home training in unselfishness comes into effect. We have to arouse ourselves to the needs of others and to matters of vital importance which concern ourselves and family.

### Woman's Influence.

"You may feel this is too big a task for women to tackle, but as members of the Women's Institute it is part of our duty 'for Home and Country.' The condition of the home vitally concerns the country and vice versa. Do you realize what an influence women control? We forget how much was accomplished by those pioneer suffragettes that we might have a voice in the governing of our country. Many women are too indifferent or uninterested to even go out to vote, and most of those that do will cast their ballot according to their husband's advice, without giving careful and prayerful thought to the matter at stake. We are pledged as Institute workers to consider these things that we may make our homes and our country the best possible place to live in.