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CITIZENSHIP

What is Citizenship? I think the best answer is found in the Bible, "Love thy neighbour as thyself". First of all good citizens need to be Christians in word and deed, good acting and conscientious people, being very concerned in helping others. For in helping others one helps oneself. They should also be interested in what is happening in other lands, in moral affairs, social problems and public affairs. A good citizen will not shirk his responsibilities and if he believes a thing to be right, he will fight for that thing and not just follow the crowd. There are so few people these days who dare to be different. It seems everyone has a horror of sticking their neck out and being counted.

When we are members of a church, we should be very careful what we say or do, for the younger generation are watching us. There has been so much hypocrisy in the past, that I feel this is why some of the young people are sick of the church and are going hippy.

How many really honest people are there to-day?. You find it in all walks of life. If anyone thinks they can get away with anything, they think they are clever to be able to do it, and whatever they can cheat the government out of, that is just fine with them, but it is so silly, for those very people have to help pay for this. It is our own faults that things cost so much, for we do not use common sense. The more we ask for, the more it will cost us in the long run. If we were not so greedy, this world would be a better place in which to live.

New Citizens have been coming to Canada from other Countries and what those Citizens are, depends on the way they are used by us. Many remember the horrors of the concentration camps and are so glad to be able to come to our Country, where they need never be afraid and can make a good living for themselves. Naturally the initiative in making friends must come from those who have lived in the Country the longer, the Native born. The children absorbed into the life of their schools have less difficulty. It is the parents who are lonely. They look upon our land as a land of opportunity and their knowledge of our history and Government would put many of us to shame. But they need people to talk with, to drink tea with and share jokes with, someone to explain the small differences in manners and customs from those of their Birthland, and above all, friends who appreciate and want the friendship they have to give.

Of those who seek Citizenship and a chance to work in peace and decency, we have a right to ask, and demand loyalty to the principals and traditions upon which our Government is based, But have we a right to ask them to forget all that has made them what they are, and begin again? Is this Democracy or Patriotism? Can men and women forget the land of their Fathers? And if they can, if their loyalty to the past is so weak a thing, will they make good Citizens of the future, or will their love and duty be equally frail? Perhaps the loneliest among our new Canadians are those who have the most to offer, whose need is not for basic English, but for a friend. May these new Citizens find friends in Canada among their neighbours, or members of our Womens Institute.

Good Citizens should not have the feeling that these people are somewhat like usurpers. Some people I have heard say "Why do they come here anyway." They are blamed sometimes for taking jobs away from the Canadian people. I do not think that is so, for they are mostly hard working people and I am sorry to say that there are a certain class of Canadians, who would rather take their unemployment cheque than work anyway and if they were as energetic as these new Canadians, it seems to me they would find something to do.

After all our Forefathers were one time Immigrants to this land too, so who are we to refuse these people the privilege of living in Canada.

Each year a certain number of New Canadians are given their papers and as their names are called, they are presented with a Bible from the British and Foreign Bible Society.



DOWN, ALWAYS DOWN I used to think that God's gifts were on shelves one above the other; and that the taller we grew in Christian character the easier we could reach them. I find that God's gifts are on shelves one beneath the other; and that it is not a question of growing taller, but of stooping lower, and that we have to go down, always down, to get God's best gifts.

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