

URGES YOUNG MEN TO ENTER POLITICS

Advice of Hon. R. L. Borden at
Y.M.C.A. Banquet

SPEAKS FOR UNITED CANADA

Sir Edmund Walker Shows the Importance of Building Character and of Teaching Ideals to the Newcomers.

An exhortation to the young men of Canada to take an interest in the politics of their country, and not to shirk their rights and responsibilities of citizenship, came from the lips of the Right Hon. R. L. Borden in addressing upwards of eight hundred members of the Toronto Young Men's Christian Association at the annual banquet held in the Central gymnasium last evening. Sir Edmund Walker, who was also the guest of the association, emphasized the importance of teaching the national aspirations of Canada to the foreigners who were coming into the country every year.

The gymnasium, where the banquet was held, was filled, chiefly with young men, who in their exuberance kept things lively with songs and shouts until the time for speaking began. In the absence of Mr. E. R. Wood, President of the Toronto Association, the chair was occupied by Mr. G. H. Wood, Vice-President. Among the others who sat at the head table were President Falconer, Bishop Sweeney, Mayor Geary, Mr. N. W. Rowell, K.C., Mr. G. T. Somers, Mr. George A. Warburton, Rev. Dr. W. F. Wilson, Mr. A. F. Webster, Mr. Harry Rylie, Mr. John Turnbull, Mr. John A. Tory, Mr. Thomas Findley, and others.

Problems of Canada.

Premier Borden, who was enthusiastically received, referred to some of the problems which were confronting Canada at the present day, and then pointed to the great problems and difficulties which had been met and overcome by the people of Canada since Confederation. These difficulties were greater than those which had confronted the people of the United States.

"Mention has been made of a divergent sentiment between the east and the west," said Mr. Borden. "I do not think we need regard that as more than a passing phase. It is true that the natural conditions accentuate the differences a little, but I am perfectly convinced that the vast majority of the people of this country know neither east nor west, but simply one united Canada that will always remain one, and will always remain a part of the British Empire."

Mr. Borden expressed the opinion that notwithstanding the fact that Canada was no longer governed by Britain, but governed herself, and that the Parliament of Great Britain had ceased to be an Imperial Parliament, the Imperial tie was to-day stronger than it had been at any time since Confederation.

Interest in Politics.

"There has been a tendency in some countries," he said, "for cultured and scholarly men, who regard themselves as the best informed and most intellectual part of the community, to consider themselves a little too good for political life. There could not possibly be a falser idea. If politics in this country involves anything discreditable to the men who take part in it, that is the fault of the people. If politics is not right let the people make it right. You cannot shirk your responsibility."

Shape Canada's Destiny.

"I say to you men, especially to the younger men, do not lay the destiny of this country in the laps of the gods, but shape it yourselves."

This was the concluding sentence of a stirring address by Sir Edmund Walker.

The young men who were fortunate enough to live in Canada at the present time, Sir Edmund said, were the most fortunate young men in centuries. It had been said the twentieth century belonged to Canada, but Canada belonged to the twentieth century, and it was the young man's business to take the twentieth century by the throat and see that it did well for Canada.

Sir Edmund emphasized the fact that the building up of character was even more important than the building up of material positions.

"We have many virtues," he said, "but we all know we are material to a dangerous extent. We know also that the government of our cities is so helplessly bad that it must be changed. I am going to say to Mr. Borden that patronage casts a shadow of evil across our country, and I hope he and his Ministers will lessen it."

Care for Foreigners.

"The problem that lies before us is that the young men shall see to it that the stranger who comes within our gates shall be told what our ideals are, and that this is a British country and that it shall remain a British country, and if they don't like it they had better not come upon the ball ground."

Referring to the influx of foreigners, Sir Edmund said: "We must teach them the national aspirations of the country. We must tell them continuously and fearlessly what the game is we are playing. There must be no east and no west—only Canada."

On motion of Mr. J. W. Woods and Dr. S. M. Wickett, a vote of thanks was tendered to the Premier and Sir Edmund Walker.