

CHURCH HAS DUTY AS TO CITIZENSHIP

Mr. Rowell Emphasizes Critical Conflict—At London Conference

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

St. Mary's, Ont., June 2.—A strong patriotic appeal to the Christian Church was made by Mr. N. W. Rowell, K.C., M.P.P., at to-night's public meeting in connection with the London Methodist Conference. His address, as a layman of the Church, pointed out his conception of the Church's duty at this critical period, and was marked by an eloquence that created a profound impression upon the congregation, which completely filled the large church. President C. A. Austin of the Laymen's Association occupied the chair, and an address on social service was given by Rev. T. Albert Moore, the Secretary of that department of the General Conference.

No Guarantee of Freedom.

Mr. Rowell made a happy allusion to his visit to St. Mary's in June. In that month last year, he said, he had been here when he was a candidate for the Ministry, but not having been accepted he came to-night as a layman. Proceeding to speak of the conflict of ideas that lay back of the clash of arms, he emphasized the fact that they had no guarantee that Germany's military spirit would not triumph. Because the early Christians had not been equal to their opportunity humanity had passed through centuries of darkness. "Who knows, if we are not equal to our opportunity now, whether our children and children's children will not have to struggle for centuries to regain freedom? Are we equal to the privilege and responsibility of living in this hour?" he asked.

One of the first duties of the Church was to emphasize the duties of citizenship. Following a commentary on democracy and the citizen's responsibility, Mr. Rowell spoke of the marvellous progress of the temperance movement since the outbreak of the war. He instanced the reforms that had been effected in Europe, and asked: "If we intern Germans and Austrians, many of whom are inoffensive, what should we do with this enemy, drink?" He declared that the verdict of the nations of Europe against the liquor traffic, this alien enemy working for the overthrow of the nation, would never be reversed. The time would come when men would be as shocked at the idea of the existence of the open bar as they were to-day by the barbarities of war. Mr. Rowell pointed with pride to the progress of the prohibition movement in various parts of Canada, but added that this was neither the time nor the place to speak of Ontario. The speaker reverted to the war in his conclusion, declaring that he who would not serve his country was unworthy of free citizenship. So long as the Empire had a man left to fight and a dollar left to spend, they would stake them all for the cause of human freedom. "We will give and give and give," he said, "until victory is achieved."

Government Supports Petition.

Rev. Dr. Moore, in the course of his remarks, said that if Canada did not have prohibitory legislation it was because they had not sent men to Parliament who represented them. He made an announcement that was received with gratification: that the monster petition of the W.C.T.U. asking that the Imperial Government should abolish the wet canteen for Canadian soldiers, which had been presented to the Prime Minister, had the latter's promise that the petition would go to the Imperial authorities with the hearty endorsement of the Canadian Government.

Give It Confidence.

"It would appear that in the composition of the new Ontario License Commission Methodism has been honored; may that honor not be tarnished! What will these men do with their strangely large powers? The Commission is yet on trial. In the meantime we should give it our confidence and support." This is the message of the London Conference to the Methodist people, as expressed in the pastoral address, read at this afternoon's session by Rev. Dr. Dougall of St. Thomas.

Transfers Reported.

The day was spent chiefly with ministerial work of a routine nature. The Transfer Committee reported the transfer to London Conference of R. A. Brook, probationer, from Newfoundland; J. N. Gould, probationer, from Alberta; Rev. C. M. Marshall, from Toronto; Rev. N. D. Drow, from Hamilton, and Rev. J. W. Hedley, from British Columbia. The following were transferred from London Conference: Rev. F. E. Mallott to Toronto; Rev. H. D. Tyler to Hamilton.

The Statistical Committee completed its compilations, reporting a total membership in the conference of 73,001, an increase of 1,026. Four new churches had been built during the year at a total cost of \$67,000—one each at Sarnia, London, Wheatley and Cairngorm. Missionary receipts were \$90,981, an increase of \$7,817; and the total sum received for all purposes was \$663,353, an increase over the previous year of \$8,218.