

FULL CITIZENSHIP

A remarkable judgment has been delivered by the Manitoba Court of Appeal. It holds that in establishing the Initiative and Referendum the Legislature exceeded its authority. Mr. Justice Richards declares that in Canada there is no "sovereignty of the people" and that we have only such power to legislate as we receive from the Imperial Parliament. If there is even technical support for this judgment action is necessary to establish the sovereignty which we ought to possess. We are a free nation within the Empire, not "an adjunct" of the Mother Country. The relation between Canada and the United Kingdom must be so readjusted that the citizen of Canada will have an equal voice with the resident of Scotland, England, Ireland or Wales in all that concerns the common Empire. It is unreasonable that we should require the assent of a Parliament at Westminister to extend the life of the Canadian Parliament for the period of the war. The question ought to be settled by the Senate and the House of Commons of Canada. If there is a technical necessity for ratification at Westminister no thought of withholding ratification should be entertained.