

GIVES ADDRESS ON CITIZENSHIP

Rev. Dr. Pidgeon Discusses Social Questions Facing Canada

Citizenship, and the responsibilities it entails, formed the subject with which Rev. Dr. G. C. Pidgeon dealt in an address delivered before the Electric Club at its weekly luncheon yesterday. Dr. Pidgeon also briefly discussed some of the social questions which Canada is facing at the present time.

One of the points which he emphasized was the manner in which state policies reflect the popular view. As the ideal of the average citizen was high or low, he said, so would the moral standard of the State be correspondingly high or low. He appealed to his audience not to accept the lower standard where they believed the higher to be possible.

New Community Spirit.

A new community spirit, he declared, was manifesting itself in this country, and he predicted that it would constitute one of the moulding influences of modern Canadian life. The hope of the future lay in the loyalty of the individual to the entire community in the face of factions or interests of any sort.

One peculiar condition with which Canada had to cope, the speaker said, was the steady migration of its people toward the newer sections of the country. The most energetic of its young men had, from generation to generation, left their homes to cast in their lot beyond the frontiers of civilization, where, since their women-folk could not follow them their potential contribution to the stamina of the race was lost. The effect upon the older communities had naturally been demoralizing while the migrants found themselves in an utterly strange environment. The speaker emphasized the necessity of making that environment a good one.

Problem of Immigration.

Immigration, he said, presented further matter for serious thought. During the year previous to the war Canada had admitted an immigrant host equal to over four per cent. of its population, a large proportion of them unable to speak the English tongue. In the past, the mistake had been made of ignoring to a large extent the persistence of race instinct and race consciousness among these foreigners, and the fact had been overlooked that a section

of them had learned to hate the word "assimilate."

That word, he thought, ought to be changed. Canada should realize that the future generations will consist not merely of the "Canadianized" descendants of our present immigrants, but of a blend of racial characteristics and traditions which ought to include the best, both of what is Canadian and what is native to those who are now settling upon our soil.