

## A PLEA FOR NATIONAL UNITY.

In the task of reconstruction that lies ahead **Canada** has need of all her sons—the foreign immigrant as well as the Canadian-born. Yesterday at the Empire Club in Toronto the Rev. Dr. G. C. Pidgeon voiced the hope of the West for closer unity in the Dominion. The demon of racial discord is abroad in these days of war, appealing to the baser passions, stirring up race antagonism, and creating schism at a moment when the exigencies of war and the good name of **Canada** call for good-will and comradeship and national oneness. The message of Western **Canada** to Eastern **Canada**, says Dr. Pidgeon, is a plea for national unity. The response of Eastern **Canada** must be generous and spontaneous. There are no **foreigners** among those who are naturalized citizens. They stand on an equal footing with the native-born as entitled to all the rights and privileges which citizenship in this free democracy confers.

The men who would attempt to disfranchise the foreign-born in this country are a dangerous menace to the peace and security of the nation, and guilty of the basest treachery. These foreigners were invited to settle in this country; they came trusting in the honor and good faith of the Canadian people. Many of them, as Dr. Pidgeon points out, have volunteered for service at the front. They form the nucleus of the army of land settlers which **Canada** must attract to her shores after the war in order to lay the foundations of national prosperity. Little hope is entertained by those most competent to form an opinion that land settlers can be obtained in sufficient numbers from the British Isles. To the continent of Europe **Canada** must continue to look for the population for her manless lands. Is it wise, is it statesmanlike, to raise the demon of racialism, and to excite unfounded and ungenerous prejudices against the stranger within the gate, at a time when our country looks to foreign nations to send of their surplus manhood for the cultivation of the soil in the Dominion?

National unity is the bedrock of progress in this country. By national unity is not meant a uniformity of thought or of outlook or of temperament, but that unity in diversity that seeks to cultivate and strengthen the national spirit, and which aims at developing in every man who lives in this Dominion a sense of civic responsibility, of national pride, and of loyalty to Canadian ideals. There can be no future for **Canada** save through the assimilation of the various races that have found a home and freedom in the New World. National unity involves keeping faith with the foreign immigrant. **Canada** in these days of peril and uncertainty has need of all her citizens.