

# SOCIAL REFORM IS NOW DUTY OF CANADIANS

## Dominion Day Thoughts at Elgin House

### GOOD WORK NEAR HOME

Opportunities at Our Very Doors in  
Helping the New Canadians is  
Contrasted With Foreign Mission  
Zeal of Earlier Day.

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Elgin House, Muskoka, July 1.—  
Keen interest has marked the sixth  
summer conference under the aus-  
pices of the Young Women's Christian  
Association of **Canada**, which has  
been in session here for several days.  
Throughout this conference strong  
emphasis has been placed on the study  
of national problems and social wel-  
fare as a field of service of propor-  
tionate opportunity with that of the  
foreign field.

#### The Case of "Soapy."

The position which service in the  
home fields holds in the mind of  
thoughtful Canadians to-day was well  
illustrated by Mrs. MacLaren of  
Ottawa in her story of "Soapy," the  
scrub-woman. For years "Soapy"  
had longed with intensity for a call  
to the foreign field. So pressing were  
the affairs of the moment that the  
call never came, and "Soapy" in her  
despair visited the minister. "I wish  
the good Lord would send me to con-  
vert the heathen," she complained.  
"Let's see what we can do about it,"  
the minister suggested. "'Soapy,'  
who lives opposite you?" "A Polish  
woman," was the answer. "'Soapy,'  
who lives next door?" "A family of  
Russian Jews." "'Soapy,' who lives  
below you?" "Two Lithuanian labor-  
ers." "Then, 'Soapy,'" answered the  
minister, "you might begin and be a  
foreign missionary at home."

#### Service to Our Neighbor.

Powerful stress has been laid on  
the fundamental fact that true reli-  
gion consists in service to our neigh-  
bor, in an awakened public conscience,  
in a recognition that the amelioration  
of social conditions is our problem—  
our problem to-day—not one we can  
hoist untouched upon the shoulders  
of the coming generation.

Rev. Dr. Woodsworth, the Secre-  
tary of the Canadian Welfare League,  
has shown this body of city and stu-  
dent workers their national oppor-  
tunities and their national responsi-  
bilities. Canadians are only begin-  
ning to realize that they have an im-  
migration and a social problem. So-  
cial consciousness is only twelve years  
old in **Canada**. There are difficul-  
ties to be faced in the very extent of  
the stretch of our vast Dominion.  
There are difficulties to be met in  
learning how to work, but if Can-  
adians have a national spirit, and a  
love of country, they must awaken  
their consciences, and find a way to  
meet their problems, and make of the  
nation the mighty power it is destined  
to be.

#### Two Lines of Opportunity.

Two great lines of action have  
been laid down by Dr. Woodsworth  
and Mrs. MacLaren. The first, the  
task of enlightening the social con-  
science on some of the problems on  
which an enlightened social con-  
science is needed—the Christianizing  
of the social order; the second, the  
establishment of neighborhood cen-  
tres, such as Evangella House in  
Toronto, throughout the communi-  
ties. The dynamic centre of the two  
lines of action is the same—the single  
standard of righteousness—the law  
of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

Working along the first great line  
of action, we Canadians are respon-  
sible for educating public opinion, in  
matters of economic welfare, such as  
land speculation, in ethical views of  
the social evil, the powerful fact that  
poverty is preventable; that low  
wages and the high cost of living  
have no uncertain connection with  
crime and disease. It is the work of  
the Church and of Christian associa-  
tions so to educate public opinion.

#### Among the New Canadians.

In the second great line of ad-  
vance—the establishment of com-  
munity centres—lies our work for our  
neighbors, the Doukabout, the Bul-  
garian, the Hebrew, the **Pole**, the  
Italian, the Russian, the Scandina-  
vian, the coming Canadians who, by  
the sweat of their brows, are con-  
structing the public works of our  
land.

A great vision of constructive work  
—a great vision of a glorious Can-  
ada, alive to its problems and oppor-  
tunities, and going forth strong to  
fight its battles and guard and up-  
build its national integrity, has been  
set before this conference.

To-night the claims of the educa-  
tional mission, the medical mission  
and the evangelistic mission were  
clearly set forth by Mr. Stillwell of  
India, Dr. Oliver of India, and Dr  
Murdoch Mackenzie of China.