

When Duty Calls

PERHAPS YOU, newly-made citizens of our United States of America, are approaching an unprecedented act of your life—that of casting your first ballot. You have severed your connection with the government under which you were born and given your allegiance to the country in which, after tests of qualification, you have been granted the right to a voice in its government. Your first act will be to indicate your choice of local, state and national candidates.

As a rule, the foreign born, who have joined the family of American citizens, appreciate the dignity and honor of passing into active participation in a greater government. It means so much to them that often they find greater compensation in the serious discharge of their election duties than do the majority of the native born who frequently neglect to study the political issues involved, and sometimes do not vote at all. Their severed allegiance to the old country induces a need of grasping more firmly the steadfast institutions of the new. The primary election is one of such institutions.

Do you understand your responsibility and power? Do you realize that your vote—**yours**—may be the deciding one in an exceedingly close election? It might be the one which defeats the unfit, the seeker of means to a selfish end.

The voters who stay at home on election day have shirked their responsibility to the country of their adoption. They are traitors to the institutions by which they may profit through succeeding generations.

Your responsibility does not cease with the taking of the oath of citizenship. It governs your every act affecting the government you have sworn to uphold. It goes deeper than living an honest life and obeying the laws. It strikes back to those who make the laws and are put into office for that purpose. It reaches out to every one charged with the execution and interpretation of those laws. You cannot discharge this responsibility unless you vote, both intelligently and conscientiously.

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