

Youth & Maturity (not opposed)

C156104

I have said that in certain countries Youth and Age have unfortunately come to occupy conflicting and antagonistic positions and that Youth has developed into something of a sectional or class movement. Happily this is not the case in Canada, or in countries where the democratic conception of Government obtains. The aim of Government should be, of course, to increase the welfare and the happiness of the whole community. Youth, in common with Childhood and Maturity, will benefit from anything which ministers to the well being of mankind as a whole. Liberalism regards the whole as greater than the part and believes that the problem of Youth cannot be separated from the larger problem of mankind. While as a Government we are ~~very deeply concerned with the special problems affecting Youth and believe that special measures~~ deeply concerned that a solution be found for the special problems affecting the Youth of the land, and are taking special measures to this end, we do not regard the needs of Youth as antagonistic ~~to~~ those of Age, and believe Youth will be served best by seeking to improve the conditions of the state as a whole.

Nothing of value can come of the effort to drive a wedge between Youth and Years. The very terms themselves are of necessity loose ones and the division in a sense, artificial, and its boundaries ill-defined. Youth, after all, is ever on the march ~~of~~ ^{of today} Age. What the young men and women propose for Youth, they will have to be prepared to extend when they themselves pass beyond that category. The attitude they exhibit to Age, they will have to be prepared to accept when they themselves fall within that description. What Youth plants today will bear its fruit tomorrow; that fruit will ripen for its own eating.

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