

still been obeyed. In this case the will of the majority was to submit and hence the government of the day expressed the wishes of the people as a whole. Whenever the tyrant abused his power so that only a minority was on his side, he was soon removed. Not only in the political life of government, but in every phase of what we call custom and law the will of the majority prevails. Vehicles move on the right hand side of the street. Why? Simply because the majority of the people have agreed that, for the sake of safety, they will restrict their individual liberty to some extent and obey this rule of the road. Law then simply means a custom which is sanctioned and imposed upon the whole of society because of its service to the majority. Any law may be altered, and is altered, as soon as the majority decide that its usefulness has passed. Law and custom and usages represent the maximum that the bulk of a people can agree upon. Since this maximum is but a fraction of the controversial whole, it tends to be colourless and lifeless. The things we differ upon are always the most interesting; the things which excite no controversy have not much emotional content—they represent as it were the lowest common measure of agreement.

From the nature of the case the will of the majority will be conservative, non-controversial and generally uninteresting. A custom, a usage, a law perpetuates itself, it is carried on by its own momentum. But there comes a time in changing society when the custom or law fits the conditions so badly that revision is imperative. The custom or law is then changed to bring it into line with existing conditions. But society moves on and no sooner has a revision of the custom or law taken place than it is again out of date, hence the saying that "The majority is always wrong".

What of the minority? Is it, therefore, always right? Far from it, but from the intelligent minority comes the restlessness, the criticism, the driving power which alters the expressed will of the majority. The progressive ideas of the minority percolate the majority but slowly. The minority is always ahead of its time, the majority always behind. A working arrangement is only made possible by the gradual absorption of the ideas of the radical minority by the conservative majority. The seers, the prophets, the minorities of mankind have never found honour in their own time. They expressed ideas which were beyond the customary ones of their period. They strove hard yet few lived to see their ideas or doctrines accepted by the community at large. Hence the minority's lot, like the policeman's, is usually not a happy one.

These views on the majority and the minority are admirably illustrated in the field of education. Take the course of study as an example. The course of study represents the view-point of the majority. Only