

artistic talent, during their educational years, is an inspiration to all Canada. Post-educational opportunity for these, as for all students, is a national responsibility.

Distribution of Opportunity in Canada

There is need for a wide distribution throughout the whole nation of some things which are, at present, accessible only to the few. Millions of persons living in Canada have never seen an original work of art, nor attended a symphony concert or a professionally produced play. Millions have opportunities neither for realizing their own talents nor for achievement in post-educational fields. On the other hand, thousands of professional, creative minds enjoy a field so limited that they are forced into activities unsuited to their talents. Thus energies are consumed in frustration.

Yet stability is achievable by properly co-ordinated planning. By federal initiation all hands could be brought into the service of the state, for the welfare of the people, in peace as they are in war.

The Face of Canada Abroad

External policies are effective in relation to non-political concepts. Before the world and before history no country can afford to ignore its cultural prestige. Canada, as a nation, has not yet taken cognizance of the cultural aspects of its place in world affairs. It should honour its best talents at home and promote them abroad.

The Method

The initiation, by the government, of a way of thought among the Canadian people would create a vast enlivening movement. The spending of money would be necessary, but a most important stimulus would lie in the *attitude* of the government to cultural activities, as shown by works, by publicity and by acknowledged interest.

Towards transition from a war-time to a peace-time economy a program of cultural development is submitted:—

Programme for Reconstruction and Re-establishment

(For purposes of convenience this summary is divided into three parts: I. Government Body; II. Community Centres; III. The Arts in National Life.)

I. GOVERNMENTAL BODY

Governmental Body.—The setting up of a governmental body for the supervision of all cultural activities; as a focal and radiating point for matters of creative consequence; as an information centre; as a gate of approach by institutions and organizations for a direct hearing on all matters pertaining to their projects. This should be concerned, not only with the visual fine arts, but with the affairs also of the architectural, the literary, the musical, the industrial, the dramatic and the craft arts as well as with everyday aesthetic values pertaining to the consumer. The artistic professions, no less than other primary producers, have need, from time to time, of legislation, a place of consultation and of protection. For all this there is now no adequate office.

While opinions vary on the particular set-up, all are agreed that such a government body should be established as soon as possible.

II. COMMUNITY CENTRES

Community Centres.—There are two urgent and basic reasons for the wide establishment of community centres.

- (a) *The opportunity they provide to achieve Canadian unity through the arts.*