

part of our Canadian citizenship? Is it possible to begin at too early an age to understand and to master the problems with the solution of which you will all so soon have an all-important part?

An Essential of Government in the Ancient City State --
The Spoken Word.

There was a feature of government in the Greek city-state of which I should like to say a word. It had a significance which was lost with time, but which is fast coming again to have much of its old significance in our own day. One of the reasons which helped to keep the city and the state synonymous for so long a time was that the Greek philosophers held strongly to the idea that government necessitated that the community to be governed should not be larger than that which would make possible the assembling of its citizens in one place, where all could hear its affairs discussed from the lips of those who were in control. In other words, the power of the spoken word was held to be all-important. To constitute an ideal community, it was essential that all citizens by assembling at a given place should be able to hear at one and the same time, what was being said. In other words, the entire state was being addressed at one and the same moment by its leaders.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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