

provide places and facilities for all kinds of local activities including crafts, arts, lectures, and plays.

Mr. QUELCH: Is it the intention to provide these advantages free of charge?

Miss WOOD: I should think that would vary from place to place according to the needs and according to the other facilities of such centres, and according to the amount of money available. There might be a very wealthy district in a city or there might be a very poor district as the result of, say, a depression—although we hope for no more depressions—but let us say a drought area where things might go badly at one time. We advise such co-ordination that the wealthier districts could help without a suggestion of charity. The whole thing should be so well co-ordinated that the stronger centres could take up the slack.

Mrs. NIELSEN: I wish to congratulate those who have been responsible for drawing up this brief and presenting it to-day. Ever since I have been a member of this committee I have been longing for something of this kind to come before us. I know a lot of things have been attributed to the Chinese which they do not deserve, but I believe there is supposed to be a proverb which says that if a poor man has two yen it is wiser for his soul's sake that with one yen he buy a loaf of bread and with the other a rose. I have the opinion that Canada as a young nation has been terribly concerned about getting her bread and she has to some degree neglected buying the rose. I cannot help but feel that having grown up as she has, during this most difficult period of war, achieved, shall we say, adult nationhood; that it is time she should devote some of her thought to cultural aspects. I was particularly pleased to note the wide aspect which was brought forward in this brief. With regard to Canada's position in the world, we have to admit that our future depends upon our ability not only to co-operate but to assert ourselves among other nations, and definitely, if we are going to compete with the older nations who have a rich cultural heritage, we must do our best to catch up, so that we do not present ourselves as some gawky awkward youngster among the nations. We must think more of these cultural things if we are to be a people. I feel myself that the importance of the many things which are mentioned in this brief is twofold: not only should we develop among our own people the opportunities for cultural development to make life for our own people more abundant, but also we should try to achieve unity between the two great peoples of this nation. We should also help Canada, as I said before, to assert herself in the world.

I should like to mention particularly one nation which has gained considerable sympathy from the rest of the world because of her ability to attract people by her cultural achievements; I refer to Mexico. Mexico is not a large nation, but she has undoubtedly attracted tourists, and she has become known to other peoples of the world because she has taken the trouble to develop the cultural life of her people. I do feel that in the setting up of any ministry of reconstruction, it would be an admirable thing to have a division in that ministry whose whole concern should be such matters as have been brought before this committee this morning. I notice that nothing very definite has been said about that, and I wonder if there is anyone among the delegation who would like to enlarge upon that aspect at all and say what they think would be needed in such a department of government.

Miss WOOD: At the present time we do not know quite how permanent the Reconstruction Department may become. Since 1880 when the late Marquis of Lorne first proposed a ministry to look after the arts various articles bearing on the subject have appeared in magazines and newspapers and the matter has been frequently discussed at artists meetings. At the present time there are three ideas. One of them which I think some people like, has been advocated over the radio from time to time by Mr. Arthur Phelps, that is a National