

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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INDIA AND THE UNESCO CONFERENCE

Text of the farewell address by Mr. L.W. Brockington, Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, at the Closing Session of the General Conference of UNESCO at New Delhi, India. December 5.

"I owe you an apology for my inability to present a formal address to you. Perhaps I have been too lazy. If you can see the notes in my hand you will know the truth of the remark once made by a Mayor of New York that an impromptu speech is not worth the paper it is written on.

"Now it is very pleasing to give thanks when thanks are due and I must say that I have watched with growing admiration the operation and uncommon skill of the Director-General and his staff in the difficult tasks which he has performed.

"Now I am not quite sure as I watched him whether he and his staff are operatic impresarios or tamers of wild animals. For every nation, as we know by experience, is a kind of a prima donna, and when I think of his operatic activities I remember what a character said in Utopia a play by W.S. Gilbert. A man who can run a theatrical crew, each one a genius and some of them two, can govern this tuppenny state.

"And when I thought of his difficulties as a trainer of wild animals I remembered two stories of my boyhood. One was of a menagerie keeper who said to the audience, Walk up, here we have seventeen species of wild animals all living amicably together in the same cage. I beg your pardon, the other sixteen are now inside the lion.

"And I remember the other unfortunate man who had as an exhibit a lion and a lamb lying down together in the same case. He was asked how he managed to have lions and lambs lying down together in the same cage. Well, he said, I manage it by frequent renewals of lamb.