

Questions of housing and of transport are very closely related to the improvement of agriculture and the improvement of the marketing of agricultural products. Then again all these have to be related to the social services, questions of health and education and all those with the problem of making real use of our leisure hours.

In the sphere of internal politics it has long been evident that tasks are being set for the Cabinet, for Parliament and for the voter, which the machinery of government, centrally and locally, built up in past ages and during the nineteenth century, does not enable them adequately to perform. Just like the individual, parliaments and cabinets, and indeed voters, find themselves frustrated by the same complexity of twentieth century life which frustrates us as individuals. It may be that the line of advance will be a considerable devolution of powers from governments to self-governing organizations, such as industrial councils and new public utility corporations. All these questions require careful study and thinking out and a long examination. Nor can we stop short even with internal problems of the machinery of government. We have to keep in mind always imperial and world contacts and our planned Great Britain has to fit itself harmoniously into the whole of the twentieth century world.

The task before this generation is an immense and a formidable task. First of all we have to pull ourselves out of the slough of despond into which we have fallen, and then to build up anew the whole structure of our life in an environment which the marvellous achievements of twentieth century science are daily making ever more strange and more unfamiliar, to all but the youngest, and we have to do all this without sacrifice of the past, without break of continuity, with a full sense of our responsibility for the great inheritance of mankind's spiritual and material achievements in past ages. We may well feel humbly that more is being asked of us than we are able to perform. We may well feel also that our vision of the possibilities of the future is too dazzling for us.

For the first time in human history the mere problem of daily subsistence has ceased to be the primary pre-occupation of a large part of the inhabitants of the earth. There is no reason, except human weakness, why in a short time any human being should feel serious anxiety at any period of his life about the provision of food and clothing and house room for himself and those who are dependent upon him. Science offers to us, and to the generation immediately ahead of us, a standard of living and of material comfort immensely higher than anything that has been known to any of those who have gone before us. Shall we not bend all our energies to the work of making straight the path by which we and they should enter into our inheritance and to fitting ourselves, if we can, and at all costs helping our successors to become more worthy in body and in mind, and in spirit, of the immeasurable opportunities which are offered to humanity of a higher and a nobler life?