

Nation Building

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Canada's Problem.

What is Canada's problem to-day? It is the blending of all the peoples within her border into one nation. A nation is more than a number of human beings living within a certain territory and under a certain government. It is a unity. It has a national conscience. It has a spirit or genius peculiarly its own, which distinguishes it from all other peoples. It has traditions which it has received, ideals which it has fought for, and principles on which its laws and its life are based which are indigenous to the soil. Its greatness and power are determined by the moral quality of the people as a whole, and this moral quality is produced by the atmosphere it breathes, the truths it assimilates, and the whole manner and purpose of its life. At present we are a conglomeration—a number of peoples living side by side; there is contact but not community of life. We shall not be a nation until all these diverse elements grow together into a vital unity and the people think and act as one.