

The aim of a liberal education, therefore, is to see that all these elements in the composition of human life are respected at their proper value, or, as Aristotle says, "in accordance with reason".

The aim, therefore, of a university, as I see it, is nothing more or less than this critical, rational, evaluation of all human activities.

It is useless to return to one hundred, or even fifty years ago in human history to find the solution for these threatening problems of our present day civilization. Fifty years ago almost every community in the world was self-contained.

The science of communication was in its infancy. The relation of science to industry and life was scarcely recognized. International trading on a large scale was almost unknown, or at any rate played only a small part in human existence. Each community had its own school and college or university, and the influence of its educational institutions seldom travelled very far beyond its own frontiers. The college was for the most part content to train a sufficient number of school teachers, clergymen, physicians and lawyers to meet the demands of its own community. Today the whole scene is changed. Our problems today are not community problems, but world problems - principally world economic problems - and I may also add, problems of the most perplexing and dangerous kind.

How, then, can the universities of the world possibly hold aloof and refuse to play their part in the solution of these problems? This challenge to the universities at the present time is, it seems to me, so obvious and so clear that we cannot afford for a single moment to ignore it.

*This shows the breadth of vision which Sir Arthur Currie had with regard to the duties of a university; and also how he was keeping pace with the times, & thought that universities should do the same.*