

should be to acquire the means to teach a minimum programme of peace in every school-room in the world.

The organization of which I spoke, commonly known as UNESCO, was planned at San Francisco in the spring of 1945, when the nations pledged themselves to promote international cultural and educational cooperation. A conference was held in London in November, 1945, attended by representatives of forty-four of the united nations, including Canada. A constitution was agreed upon, and the first conference to be held under it was planned to take place in this summer of 1946.

The declaration setting up the organization set forth the following as its purpose:

To contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law, and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the charter of the united nations.

Article VII recommends that within each signatory nation there shall be set up a national commission to act in an advisory capacity to their respective delegations, and to act as agencies of liaison between their respective governments and the main body of the organization.

To-day I am appealing to the government and to the country for support for this international organization, and for thoughtful consideration in the setting up of the proposed national organization or commission in Canada. While asking for action and leadership in this regard, I realize that this is a matter in which it is perhaps necessary to hasten slowly, for since it deals partly with education, it is dealing with a matter which comes under the jurisdiction of the provinces. The commission should be established, then, with the support of the provincial governments and all national bodies interested in education, science and culture generally.

This may take some time, and so I urge upon the government some immediate action by way of a beginning. In this field there is no minister, no government department to give a lead; some leadership should be arranged forthwith. The national commission should be set up at once as a consultative and advisory body. Such a body might have the following purposes:

(1) To assemble representatives of the intellectual and cultural life of the nation, those who pursue it professionally and those who enjoy its fruits, and are organized to serve its interests.

[Mr. Knight.]

(2) To provide a national group in which the intellectual and cultural resources of Canada may be expanded and fortified by the mutual exchange of views and experience.

(3) To provide a national body through which the government may keep in constant touch with the ideas, wishes and activities of those directly interested in the education, science and culture of Canada.

(4) To provide, through the government, a link between this aspect of Canadian national life and UNESCO, the international body of which the country is a member.

As for the personnel of such a commission, its membership should be drawn from all the provinces and from organizations in the educational, scientific, and cultural fields. It should meet in widely separated parts of the country. It could thus in its own right become a powerful instrument for national unity.

One thing on the educational side of the organization I would particularly urge upon the federal government. The educational organizations of this country are vitally interested in the success of this organization. The organized teachers of the country are vitally concerned in it. I was informed, in reply to a question I put on the order paper some time ago, that the Canadian teachers' federation have already advised the government in this matter, have asked for representation on the proposed national commission and on the Canadian delegation to the main conference itself, and have even suggested names of those who, they consider, would represent them suitably. Organized teachers are entitled to such representation; I urge it upon the government with all the earnestness at my command. I would urge the government to keep in touch in this whole matter with such fine organizations as the Canadian teachers' federation and the Canada and Newfoundland education association.

UNESCO is vitally important. Let us support it wholeheartedly. In appealing for federal aid to education in this particular and special sense, I think that I can do no better than quote the words of that fine scholar Doctor R. C. Wallace, president of Queen's university, who was one of the Canadian delegates at the preparatory conference of UNESCO last year. I find them in the *International Journal* (winter number 1945-46) published by the Canadian Institute of International Affairs. Doctor Wallace there maintains that the great nations can secure peace for a generation by the use of power, and that during that time this organization of UNESCO can be laying the foundations on which permanent peace and security will be built. He says: