

Education

Canadians feel that our co-operation in the field of education within the Commonwealth should properly be extended. Under the Colombo Plan and the operations of the United Nations and other agencies, there is an interchange of technical knowledge and skill, essentially for economic purposes. This was, and is, most urgently required to initiate and support economic development. I believe something more is needed in the field of education generally, over and above the private and official aids already offered to enable persons in various parts of the Commonwealth to study or teach in other countries of the Commonwealth.

I would suggest that this Conference give consideration to agreeing in principle on the establishment of a broad and reciprocal Commonwealth programme of scholarships and teaching fellowships, to strengthen the intellectual resources of the nations' members, to encourage the interchange of ideas, and to further the sense of common purpose and understanding in our younger generations.

Such a plan would provide for students and teachers to study and to teach in the schools and universities of other member nations and would apply particularly to schools and universities in the Asiatic and African nations of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth - An Example for Rest of World

These are but a few of the questions that occur to me as worthy of attention.

Ours is an age of crisis; ours is an age of challenge - a spiritual struggle for the minds of men. If despair should triumph, then right and freedom would fall before wrong, oppression and tyranny. But if the challenge of these days inspires a sense of dedication, of expectation, of hope, even of exaltation, in the possibilities of new achievements, then the forces of justice, freedom and humanity will rise to summits not yet imagined or attained.

We live in times such as were described by Dickens as he contemplated the French Revolution:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,
It was the Age of Wisdom, it was the Age of Foolishness,
It was the Epoch of Belief, it was the Epoch of Incredulity,
It was the Season of Light, it was the Season of Darkness;
It was the Spring of Hope, it was the Winter of Despair;
We had everything before us, we had nothing before us.
We were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going
direct the other way..."