

than of their common features. Thus we often hear it said that the province of Quebec is not like the other provinces. But in this regard it can equally be said that the Atlantic provinces, the province of Ontario, the Western provinces and British Columbia also have characteristics of their own.

We are to a great extent living under a system of cultural co-existence. In this respect we find ourselves in a position much like that which one existed in the economic field. In other words, our country is composed of various cultural areas which do not entertain sufficient relations with one another and which are too exclusively subjected to common influences from outside Canada. Such a situation gives no cause for alarm. Cultural diversity is undeniably a source of enrichment, provided that the different cultural trends can meet. Outside cultural influences are certainly desirable, provided they are neither determining factors nor the only ones simultaneously influencing all sections of the country for in that case the sources of our cultural life would cease being Canadian.

If we are to avoid such a possibility, we must get to work and try to relive on the cultural level our experience in the economic field. Our collective effort should then rest upon three fundamental principles.

In the first place, in the cultural field, we must aim at strengthening our regional cultures, particularly the two main cultures of Canada, so that they may radiate throughout the country, but we should not attempt to weaken them in order to leave a single and uniform culture. In the second place our cultural development in all its aspects, should, as much as possible, be left to private initiative. In the third place the state must support and encourage individuals and private organizations in the various spheres which are their responsibilities but then under no circumstances must it try to control them and deprive them of their freedom. A few remarks on each of these principles may not be out of place.

It is not only undesirable but impossible to establish one single culture in Canada. Any attempt in this direction would end in failure and would threaten national unity. Canada will have passed an important milestone in its development as a nation when all Canadians are convinced that only through cultural diversity can their country be unified and endure as a separate entity. Once we have grasped this truth, which emerges clearly from our history, our different cultural groups will no longer vainly try to impose their culture on others. Instead they will endeavour to improve their own cultural life and to assimilate what is good in the culture of others and compatible with their own. When we have acquired this outlook and have adopted this attitude we shall have taken another great step on the way to national unity. For the present what is important is to strengthen the two main cultural streams in this country, to promote their expansion and to induce them to meet and to exchange.

In our efforts to promote Canada's cultural growth, it must always be kept in mind that culture resides primarily in individuals, in private groups and in institutions. It is pre-eminently a field which should be left, as much as possible to private initiative. The development of our cultural life will be ensured first of all when we have a sufficient number of scholars and artists who will be able to enrich one another while remaining in touch with the people as a whole, either to educate them, or to draw inspiration