

Probably no single thing in Canada should call for graver consideration than the question of unity. We have been flippant in our disregard for it. We have been satisfied with phrases concerning it, and they are but empty things. At bottom, these two great central Provinces profoundly distrust one another. They are not seeking for points of agreement. They are nursing their differences, each one accepting what may be said which will add to their prejudices, while voicing content with meaningless phrases indicating a better spirit. The prejudices are both sectarian and racial. We do not know the West, and the West does not know the East. There are hundreds of thousands of children in Western Canada who have never seen the East. For years they have heard that the chief object of the East is to bleed the West. I am advised that there is not a single purely Conservative newspaper in the three Prairie Provinces, that the party is dependent for the presentation of Conservative doctrine upon those who are their opponents, except in so far as the Southam Press is of independent Conservative character. It is a rare thing for leaders in the Conservative party, or for that matter in the Liberal party, to go through the West, except during the period of an election. The educative process in the years between the elections is negligible. To those of us whose business takes them West, there is no more striking phenomena than the generous spirit in which they desire to hear what visitors may have to say by public address. Any important business or financial man who goes West has telegrams while en route and after he reaches his destination from citizen bodies, church