

I remember enjoying your essay & last year I
am so glad that you have now finished a paper
on what was a very stiff competition.
I shall look forward to reading your
essay. *URGENT POST* B.

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Subject: If you had a large sum of money to spend on helping young people in the Commonwealth to understand and know each other better, how would you spend it?

Every young person in the Commonwealth is proud to be a member of this great family of nations. It is part of our heritage, a wonderful thing for which forefathers fought and died.

Children of the Empire all
the world through

Are you doing the best you may?
Empire will be tomorrow
What you are being today.

New Zealand School Journal
June 1930.

This is the thought that I shall try to keep in mind while planning a programme which, I hope, will help young people in the Commonwealth to know and understand each other better.

Firstly, I should establish an organization whereby a complete survey could be made of past achievements and any errors, in this field of work; for one

can only learn by mistakes and experience. This could be facilitated by a close liaison with the Colonial Office in London, the Ministries of Information in the Dominions and Colonies, the British Commonwealth Society and the British Councils.

As the object of the Royal Commonwealth Society is to promote a lasting bond between the Mother Country and the Dominions and Colonies, I should donate a large sum to enable junior branches of the Royal Commonwealth Societies to be formed in other countries. These branches in countries such as Australia, New Zealand, the Union of S Africa and many others, would provide a common meeting ground for young Commonwealth people arriving in a strange country.

In connection with the branches of the Royal Commonwealth Society, I should provide Youth Hostels in some of the larger Commonwealth countries, where young people could stay together. These Youth Hostels would include recreation centres and libraries of suitable books. Tours of the countryside could also be arranged and information bureaux formed. Here in an atmosphere of friendliness young people could mingle freely and absorb the culture of the people of other Commonwealth lands.

Attached to this organization I

should have a magazine in which the activities and achievements of this organization could be recorded. This might be made extremely interesting by contributions from young Commonwealth members. Friends could also be contacted through this magazine.

Another of my plans would be to establish a competition with various branches including painting and music. The subjects for the competition would be appropriate to the Commonwealth, and the prize would be a tour of the Commonwealth countries. I should arrange the tours so that the winners would be able to visit countries with a way of life in complete contrast to their own. There could also be an architectural competition to find a suitable design for the Youth Hostels, recreation centres, and other Commonwealth buildings. This competition would encourage young people to take more interest in Commonwealth affairs and the tour would certainly give them a knowledge of the peoples of the different Commonwealth countries.

For the children I should arrange exchange schools within the Commonwealth. Children from Australia could perhaps go to schools in Africa, while the African children could then stay in Australia. The children would stay in good homes and would naturally learn to understand the way of life in that particular country. These visits should not be too long.

as the children might adopt themselves too fully to their environment thus finding it difficult to settle in on their return to their own country. On the other hand the visits should not be too short as to be rendered useless. I suggest that a year would be sufficient.

I feel that there should be more exchange between young Civil Servants, nurses, bank clerks, teachers and other government employees. These people could exchange with others for two or three years. It is at this age that a person has the eager desire for travel, and is ready to absorb new ideas, make new friends and is enthusiastic about other people, their ideas and culture. Therefore I should use money to enable them to exchange visits in different countries. I am sure that these young people would have a wider outlook and be more tolerant of each others difficulties. However they should be carefully selected, for a person who has not the right qualities would undo any good work achieved in this field. Above all these people must be enterprising, good ambassadors and good mixers.

Over the years it has been seen how much scouting and guiding influence relations between the young people of the Commonwealth. I should give a large sum of money to scouting and guiding. This would just be to improve upon the organization,

for I feel that it is better left as it is. The money would be for the leaders to use as they thought best with particular emphasis on Commonwealth relations.

Greater use could be made of radios and films. These two devices could be easily used to bring young Commonwealth people closer together. Young people should be encouraged to listen in to broadcasts on life in other Commonwealth countries and there could be talks by young Commonwealth members. I should form a radio and film organization for young people of the Commonwealth.

Amateur radio listeners could belong to this and through it could contact each other. Ideas on radios and films could be exchanged. This organization could also facilitate the exchange of books and any other Commonwealth literature, countries, between its members.

As farming is becoming increasingly important throughout the Commonwealth I should like to provide money to enable young farmers to visit other Commonwealth countries and to exchange ideas on farming with each other. This would serve a dual in backward countries for not only would young people be brought together but farming methods and agricultural development improved.

Young research workers of the Commonwealth could pool their knowledge

and work together in communal laboratories, for the good of the Commonwealth as a whole. This would, perhaps, promote peace which is the need of the nations today. In their small way these people would be working together to achieve this ideal.

In schools I should like to institute Commonwealth history as a subject also providing for text books.

As many schools in Commonwealth countries can only teach a little of Commonwealth history, this would prove very useful in helping young people to understand the economic and social structure of each other's lands. With a knowledge of Commonwealth history, young people can more easily form a background of the ideals of other Commonwealth people.

These plans which I have, would of course take some years to put into operation. By this time many would probably be discarded for more modern ones. As the years pass by, some may prove useless; as time goes on the errors will more easily be seen.

The greatest need of the Commonwealth today is knowledge and understanding, for these bring peace and security. Only by achieving this will the Commonwealth become once more a great strong family setting an example to the rest of the world, united against the threat of

Communism. However in doing this for young people we must be extremely careful not to upset their own background and culture. If we do this we will soon find our young people becoming misfits in their own countries, yet without a part in any other country. This we must guard against for each person should have some loyalty towards his own country.
