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THE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE OF CATALONIA FROM 1939 to 1964

INTRODUCTION.

In gathering material for such a comparison as that which follows perhaps the most outstanding single fact that emerges is the obvious lack of facts. We mean that the statistics needed and crucial to such a study are not available. But information concerning a language and a culture cannot be suppressed absolutely. The concern is too great; there are leaks, so to speak. Memoranda sent to the Council of Europe, or UNESCO, for instance, serve to enlighten us on certain aspects of the present condition. If we are vague it is because the present condition is vague, if we seem too speculative it is because we are dependent upon inadequate information, if we present experience rather than numbers it is because we are enlightened by the experience of those who have spoken of it to us. Let this serve as an apology.

A. Before 1936

I. Schools.

1. Elementary. From 1931 to 1939, under the Statute of Autonomy, instruction was given in Catalan in all public elementary schools, and many private as well.

2. Secondary. When Catalonia achieved political autonomy, secondary education was left to the responsibility of the Central Government, with the exception of a few schools, not leading to University studies. Those special schools were the charge of the Catalan Government. Among them were schools for the training of industrial and agricultural technicians, librarians, specialists in home economics, etc.

3. Higher Education. The University of Barcelona, the only university in Catalonia, and one of the two existing in the Catalan-speaking Countries (the other one is in València), became autonomous and bilingual.

