

Supply—Labour

to those 116 schools there were 79 new buildings or additions to existing buildings planned by municipalities, which would be built without assistance from the department.

I want to bring to the attention of the committee a resolution which was adopted by the vocational training advisory committee, a special committee set up under the act to advise the minister and the department with respect to its administration. At its meeting on October 4, 1948, that advisory committee called attention to the fact that since this act came into force in 1945 the cost of building and equipping vocational schools had increased greatly, and that the original amount voted for this purpose fell far short of achieving what those who put through this legislation had in mind. As a result of increased construction costs, fewer schools could be built than the government and the department visualized in 1945.

In view of that condition the committee recommended that a further grant of \$5 million be made by the dominion for capital expenditure, to be distributed on the same basis as the earlier capital grant; and that annual grants should be increased from \$2 million to \$4 million. The committee felt this would be effective in carrying out the objectives of the department as set forth in the original act. I have looked through the estimates for this year and find that while the department has been able to reduce its estimates for vocational training by some \$3 million because of the fact that it is not required to provide that training for those coming out of the armed forces, there is nothing in the estimates to indicate that this recommendation of the advisory committee has been accepted. The report to which I am referring states that as of March 31, 1949, those recommendations were still under consideration.

As I have already indicated, I am quite sure the minister personally is very sympathetic to this work. I am convinced that if his wishes could prevail in the cabinet the recommendations of this committee would be adopted. So I want to say, not so much to the minister as to the other members of the cabinet who help determine government policy and government budgets, that here is one field where government money can be spent to good advantage to assist the boys and girls of this country. This is one field in which there is no quarrel with the provinces. One feature of these vocational training grants is the way in which this government has been able to co-operate with all the provincial governments in the field of vocational

education. I am assured by provincial educational officers and by officers of the minister's department that there has been nothing but the utmost co-operation in this field.

There are communities where vocational education is badly needed. I think of the community from which I come, the township of York. There we have an industrial population of close to one hundred thousand, with somewhere around four thousand boys and girls attending secondary schools. There we have no vocational school or vocational class of any kind. These thousands of pupils, coming from industrial homes, can get only an academic education leading to matriculation. In that community only about ten per cent of those who enter the secondary schools continue through to grade XIII, and less than two per cent of the pupils proceed to university. That is the sort of community where there is a crying need for vocational education. The township of York is one of the suburbs of Toronto. Most of the large business firms are located in Toronto, and much of the money of that community is spent in that city. Toronto derives taxation from all the large industrial and business centres, which are supported by the suburban communities. The schools of my community derive their support almost entirely from two sources, the assistance given by the provincial government and the taxes on the homes and properties of that area.

It had been planned to build a vocational school there to accommodate a thousand pupils. Today in the township of York there are well over a thousand pupils who would attend a vocational school if one were available. They were unable to get their plans to the department here before the expiration of the period for application. As a result the best that community can do without aid from the federal government will be to construct a school for five or six hundred pupils instead of a thousand, a school without a gymnasium or an auditorium, and without much of the equipment that is absolutely necessary for a vocational school. Were the department or the government to take into consideration the recommendation of this vocational advisory committee, and to include, if not in this year's estimates certainly in next year's, the extra moneys recommended, the community of York township, and many of these other 70 communities across Canada who are undertaking to build vocational schools without any federal assistance, would be able to build better schools in those communities. Those schools would be able to carry on that particular type of work more effectively.

[Mr. Noseworthy.]