

The Address—Mr. Arsenault

In the case of scholarships granted to undergraduates, it recommends that the present federal-provincial agreement covering the distribution of such scholarships be maintained, but that the number of beneficiaries be increased.

In addition, the Massey report recommends that 20 per cent of post-graduate students be granted scholarships, in order to give all those who have any ability and especially the sons of farmers, workers or fishermen, for whom the cost of education—and by that I mean a university education—is prohibitive, a chance to achieve a university education.

In his speech the hon. member for Labelle deplored, as we all do, the fact that there are so few French-speaking Canadians in the civil service and in the armed forces. I can speak knowingly about this, because from 1945 to 1949, I was a member of the committee of five.

But have the member for Labelle and those who try to depreciate the Liberal government on this account ever tried to determine the main reasons for this anomaly? Has the member ever wondered, for instance, what French Canada has to offer in two of the most important fields of activities in the forces and in the civil service, namely chemistry and civil engineering?

Does the member know that out of a total of 5,000 chemists in Canada, less than 250 are French-speaking? Is he aware that, out of a total of 35,000 professional engineers in Canada, only 1,400 or 4 per cent are French-speaking?

How can you expect our French-speaking compatriots to supply their fair share of engineers and chemists to the forces or to the different fields of the civil service when we have none available? Conditions are the same in many other branches of the federal civil service. We have trained our children mainly for the medical and legal professions and we have not given enough importance to the scientific careers.

Other qualifications being equal, the fact that one is a French-speaking Canadian has never stood in the way of promotion here in Ottawa or in any other part of the country. I want to give credit to our English-speaking compatriots on that score. The successful career of our Prime Minister bears witness to this. The main trouble is that our universities have failed to train enough young men, especially in the scientific field, to fill the key positions available in the civil service. The dire straits in which our universities, particularly our French-speaking universities, found themselves prevented them

from fulfilling their mission in that respect. That is precisely what the Massey report wants to correct by its recommendations.

It is thanks to this federal aid, to the recommendations of the Massey report relating to grants to universities and scholarships that we shall train, in our French language universities, competent men in sufficient number, especially in the field of sciences, so that in five, ten, fifteen or twenty years our French-speaking compatriots will be in a position to claim their share of the key positions in the civil service and in our three armed services.

At any rate, the most violent critics of the government in this connection, have probably omitted to open the Massey report at page 179 where they would have seen that during the ten year period between 1939 and 1949, the students of the province of Quebec more than those of any other province did profit from the generous aid granted by the federal government. As a matter of fact, the following amounts have been paid by the federal government to the provinces to assist students, under the provisions of the vocational education act: Quebec, at the head of the list, has received \$566,235; Ontario, \$212,955; British Columbia, \$188,455; Saskatchewan, \$133,515; New Brunswick, \$88,760; Alberta, \$83,265; Nova Scotia, \$45,125; Manitoba, \$22,900; Prince Edward Island, \$18,110.

Federal assistance to education is not, therefore, a new development and so far Quebec province has had the largest share.

Another reason for our numerical weakness in key spots both in the civil service and in the army is the reluctance of a great many French-speaking Canadians to expatriate themselves by moving to Ottawa.

I use the word "expatriate" advisedly, because when Ottawa is concerned that is the word used by certain French-speaking Canadians from the province of Quebec. Why? Because in that province, for too many years now, there has been preached a gospel of hate for Ottawa and anything that is suggested by Ottawa. The member for Labelle gave us a sample of just that the other day in this house when he assailed as he did the recommendations of the Massey report.

For almost a generation, a state of cold war has existed between Quebec and Ottawa, a cold war instigated, organized and synchronized for the sole purpose of arousing Quebec nationalism to fever pitch in order