

Education

royal commission on the arts, letters and sciences, Mr. Massey.

—in association with your colleagues in another of your capacities will be able to help us to find a proper solution of that difficult problem.

You will note that the Prime Minister was recognizing there that the universities of Canada—and he was speaking of them all—are not simply rendering a service to the provinces or to the local areas which support them, but are rendering a national service. That can be said of every university in Canada, some of course to a greater degree than others because some attract students from greater distances than others, but these are institutions that are rendering a national service. They do not attempt to draw provincial boundaries across the benefits that they extend. They do not try to draw provincial lines among the students who flock to their doors. These benefits are national, and regard must be had for the fact that today the provinces simply are not able under the present division of revenues to give to these national institutions the financial support that they require.

University professors, like members of the teaching profession in other levels of education, have been notoriously underpaid. The university of Toronto, the institution before which the Prime Minister made this particular speech, has recently undertaken a revision of the scale of salaries of those on the professorial staff at very great cost. That institution now leads the other universities of Canada in the scale of salaries offered to its professorial staff. Yet I am sure that no one in the house is going to argue that this salary scale is adequate. Certainly no one is going to argue that the salary scales obtaining today in the universities of Canada are generous. I say that they are not adequate, and we who are charged with national responsibilities may well entertain very grave concern for the future of these educational institutions if they are not able to attract to the ranks of their teaching staffs the best equipped minds for academic careers.

It is a most serious matter for all of Canada. It is no longer possible to confine the support of provincial institutions to those revenues that are provincial. The time is overdue when some needed assistance must be given for the expansion of educational provision in the provinces and for equalizing educational opportunity. Certainly all of the provinces have not the means at their disposal today. They are cramped in their operations because of lack of revenue, and some of them are feeling the pinch very seriously.

Municipalities are notoriously ill-provided today to meet their share of the cost of providing education in the schools. A major advance was made in the province of Ontario some six years ago by the government headed by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) in this house when the provincial government assumed, in addition to the burdens it was then bearing, one-half of the total cost of education in the province, and in some municipalities, particularly rural municipalities where educational costs were falling with particularly heavy weight on the taxpayers, provincial assistance extended even up to 90 per cent of the cost of education in those municipalities. It was a great, far-sighted and statesmanlike step that was taken for the assistance of municipalities in meeting educational costs.

Something of that nature is required in the broader sphere today. To close on the note on which I opened, I say it can be done by joint action on the part of the dominion and the provinces without committing in the slightest degree a trespass upon the exclusive jurisdiction of the provinces over education. I reiterate that there is no thought, I am sure, on the part of any member of this house of making the slightest trespass upon or invasion of those exclusive rights of the provinces in the matter of education. But, sir, this is a matter in which I am sure success can be achieved, and will be welcomed by the provinces, if the government will be prepared, as it ought to do and as it can do, to sit down with the provinces and work out measures that will recognize the national benefits of education.

Mr. F. D. Shaw (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, on several previous occasions this resolution, or resolutions very similar to it, have come before the house for the consideration of hon. members. Upon each of those occasions my colleagues and I have taken a firm stand in support of the general proposition contained therein. In dealing with the subject of federal aid to education we, as other speakers have indicated, are certainly not unmindful of what has already been done by the national government in the field of general education. I too compliment the government upon what they did with respect to our veterans of world war II. Thousands of service personnel were enabled not only to complete educations but to acquire them. They have become better citizens as a consequence thereof, and we certainly commend the government for their action.

We also know what has been done by the federal government in the field of assistance for vocational training, and with respect to various technical training schemes that have