

Supply—Finance

into the family has a good deal to do with the attendance of high school students and the number of students from a family who can attend the high school.

There is the matter, for instance, of books, and there is the necessity for certain members of the family to work in order to maintain the family income while the other members go to high school. I had the statistics some years ago. It is quite a proven fact that the greater percentage of the children are in the professional classes, followed, I think, by the business classes, followed by skilled labour and unskilled labour in that order. I am well aware that there are other reasons for that sliding scale, but one of the chief reasons is the amount of income enjoyed or not enjoyed by the families concerned.

While I am speaking on these grants—and I am all in favour of them—I would suggest to the government that they carry their work further by the granting of more scholarships to needy students. We have here an opportunity to mention this in connection with grants to universities. I shall not spend long on this, but I think we need more scholarships. I think the system of grants to university students in Britain has been very successful in this regard. We have had some system of scholarships here, but there has been a tendency to give them for scientific subjects. I suppose one can understand that tendency in times of war or in times of national emergency such as we have had. However, I notice that this government has been much more interested in that type of scholarship than in scholarships for the humanities, which I think are equally necessary, certainly in times of peace. In many families there are clever students who need this type of assistance. The fact that there is a grant to the university as such does not meet their problem.

Of course in my plea for scholarships for the humanities I do not want the scientific subjects to be neglected. It has been noticeable that in Canada most of the scholarships have been in the scientific field, under the influence of defence needs. There is certainly a need for trained personnel particularly in this atomic age. I know there has been difficulty in finding persons to fill certain important posts. I believe it was the Secretary of State who said the other day that there was a shortage of patent engineers and a shortage of engineers in general. I think a system of scholarships, together with the present system of university grants, would improve conditions in that regard.

As to the university grants themselves, may I say that I never felt particularly comfortable about the method of their distribution or about the basis upon which they were distributed. It is true that 50 cents per head, if I may put it that way, is a nice easy way of solving the problem. It is easy of administration, but I am not sure that it is completely just. I think need should be taken into consideration; I refer to need in the particular province. I believe that the educational efforts which the province is prepared to make should also be considered. One can easily realize that a province with an extremely large population would not necessarily be as much interested in the education of its young people as would certain other provinces. I think this could be adjusted somehow in order to cover those two matters.

In any case I shall conclude by saying what I rose to say, namely that we are glad of these grants. We are thankful for them. As I say, they have been not only an impetus to the universities and to university education but they have been the very salvation of some of the universities which at present exist but which could not have existed if those grants had not been given. I welcome them as a sign that we are not concerned wholly with material things, though now one might urge, even in the material sense, that a country with such great potentialities and such great natural resources as we have will certainly need skilled minds, if I may put it that way, to administer them and to bring this Canada of ours which has such great potentialities up to the educational level of some of the older but perhaps less fortunate countries of the world in the matter of wealth and natural resources.

Mr. Ellis: There are one or two questions I should like to ask the minister on this item. I assume that the government is guided in its policy decisions by the recommendations made by the Massey commission. On page 355 of its report the commission recommended as follows:

That these contributions—

That is referring to the moneys dealt with in this particular item.

—be sufficient to ensure that the work of the universities of Canada may be carried on in accordance with the needs of the nation.

Since the government set up the commission to make a thorough investigation of the needs of the nation in this respect, I feel that the government is prepared to accept its recommendations as the basis for its policy. I note that the sum of money appropriated under this item is some \$7,800,000. I should like to know whether the minister feels that this amount is sufficient to meet the requirement