

THE COMMUNITY AND THE SKILLED WORKER

The following remarks were made by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Allen J. MacEachen, at the opening of the North Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton, Alberta, on May 27:

...The need for an expansion of technical and vocational education has been widely recognized. There is, in fact, no argument today anywhere in Canada about our need for more skilled people, at all levels. This has been amply proved by the way in which provincial governments and municipalities have moved ahead rapidly with their school-building programmes under the new Technical and Vocational Training Agreements signed two years ago.

Although much has been accomplished, we seem to be barely keeping pace with expanding needs. In fact, the farther we advance in technical education, the more the horizons widen out in front of us.

I am told that, since 1960, accommodation in institutes of technology, such as this one, has been more than doubled. This fall, these institutes will have accommodation for 22,800 students in all courses. From what we now know of the increasing number of students, it seems that by 1967 we are going to have to provide accommodation in this kind of school for at least as many more students across Canada.

The estimates for other kinds of technical and vocational schools are just as startling. Technical and vocational highschools increased their accommodation by 115,000 from 1960 to 1963. The increase needed by 1967 will again be substantial. Accommodation in trade schools and adult vocational schools increased by 17,000 between 1960 and 1963. By 1967 it appears this accommodation will have to be at least doubled.

The type of post-highschool training you are giving here has developed rapidly in recent years. It is, in fact, one measure of the changes that have taken place across Canada over the past two decades...

OVERDUE RECOGNITION

One by-product of the increasing concern with technical and vocational education has been an up-grading of the status of the skilled tradesman and technician.

There is something that has long been overdue. For too long many people have thought of vocational and technical education as an inferior type of educa-

HALL OF THE GREAT CHIEFS

A gallery in the Saskatchewan Legislative Building, Regina, called "The Hall of the Great Chiefs", contains 15 portraits of famous Canadian Indian leaders by Edmund Morris, a painter who was born in Perth, Ontario, in 1871, and died at Toronto in 1913. Morris spent the greater part of his life roaming Canada in search of facial types representative

tion. The notion that it is suitable only for those who cannot make the grade in an academic course is both wrong and harmful.

Most people today know how vital men and women with technical skills are to our prosperity. I think too that more people are realizing how complex the jobs are that many of our skilled people are called upon to perform.

I am sure everyone here realizes that building more school accommodation, staffing it with competent teachers and finding suitable equipment are all of primary importance.

But education today is also becoming a matter that concerns the whole community. We must provide education for the young people of the nation as we always have, but now we are providing more years of education for a larger proportion of the population, and we are providing education in a variety of courses undreamed of a few decades ago.

RE-TRAINING THE VETERAN WORKER

Older men and women, already in the work force, can no longer count on an uninterrupted career in their original occupations. Their jobs are changing around them even while they work. Many of these people need re-training to fit them to handle new techniques and new processes. Many others must have the training that will allow them to advance to entirely new occupations. Then there are the men and women whose basic education must be upgraded before they can be trained for these new jobs.

It has always been a problem for a young person to choose a career; today the problem is far more difficult because of the bewildering range of occupations that have been created by the advances of technology.

There is, therefore, a need for more guidance services for young people, and for adults as well. We need more fully-qualified guidance counsellors who have knowledge both of education and of the needs of industry and business.

The whole matter of training for skilled occupations demands the co-operation of the community - of management and unions as well as of educators and community associations. When curricula are expanding so rapidly, the school system must have the advice of all these other groups in deciding on courses and must in many cases have their help in carrying out training...

of the various Indian tribes. His 55 works depict chiefs and warriors of the Cree and Blackfoot nations. Apart from their artistic quality, these paintings form an invaluable record of a vanished era.

Besides the portraits hanging in the Regina gallery, there are many works by Edmund Morris in the National Gallery in Ottawa and the Ontario Gallery, Toronto.