

Supply—Labour

work is completed. I was hopeful that the minister would be able to secure the \$3 million for his department in order that it might be transferred to other fields of education, but I see no indication in the estimates of that being done.

There is another phase of work carried on by the department in which I am interested, the training of unemployed persons. Here again I notice in the report that, while money was available to all the provinces for the vocational training of unemployed persons, there were three provinces in Canada which did not avail themselves of that assistance, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Ontario. I gather from the report, however, that the training of unemployed personnel was carried on in the province of Quebec to a large extent with assistance from the federal government in the regular vocational schools of the province. Once again I am at a loss to know why, with the number of unemployed increasing in the province of Ontario, the provincial government has not availed itself fully of the assistance for the training of unemployed persons through the regular vocational schools of the province.

Before I deal with the financial assistance given to vocational schools, there is another point in the report to which I wish to refer, the replacement of depreciated equipment within the vocational schools of the country. I find there was a total amount of \$259,600 approved by the minister for replacing such equipment in our technical schools, but there were certain strings attached to that. The act gives the minister authority to refund to certain schools 75 per cent of the cost of equipment purchased by them from War Assets Corporation up to the total amount of \$259,600 approved by the minister. The report goes on to say that few claims have been sent in by the schools to which funds were made available, and that total payments up to the present time have been \$73,423 as against the \$259,600 allotted. Of the \$73,423, \$25,584 was paid during the last fiscal year to one school in Nova Scotia, two in Ontario, three in Saskatchewan and three in British Columbia. I note the reason given why more of these funds were not used is that War Assets Corporation has been able to supply little suitable equipment.

While the minister is speaking on his estimates, I should like him to tell us why it was that War Assets Corporation was able to supply so little equipment to our vocational schools. I cannot believe the reason is that such equipment did not exist. During the war years I had the privilege of visiting a great many of the war industry plants in Ontario.

I know something about the type of equipment used in our vocational schools, and I am confident there must have been a great deal of war assets equipment that would have been suitable for use. Because War Assets Corporation was able to supply very little I note that the provinces have only been able to avail themselves of \$73,423 when the department had an amount allotted of \$259,600.

I want to touch briefly on two major fields in which the department is contributing so far as vocational training is concerned. One that I overlooked is apprentice training. From the report it is evident that valuable work has been done in that field. During the fiscal year ending March, 1948, 6,286 apprentices have been assisted under the act, 3,659 of them in the province of Ontario. I also notice that for the year 1949 there has been a considerable drop in the number of apprentices who received assistance under the act. I am quite sure the minister will want to give us some explanation why there is a decreasing number of apprentices taking advantage of the privileges afforded by the legislation.

The department's greatest assistance to vocational education was in the direct contributions made to the provinces for regular vocational training in their schools. An agreement was made with the provinces whereby there was to be an annual outright grant of \$10,000 to each province, which was not to be matched. It was an outright gift to each of the provinces to be used by them in vocational education. A grant was made over a ten-year period of \$1,910,000 which was to be used in the development of vocational education, and there was a special contribution of \$10 million to be allotted among the provinces for capital expenditures on the building and equipment of vocational schools. There is no question but that the assistance given has aided the advancement of vocational education across Canada. I am sure that the minister with his background is probably as sympathetic to the development of vocational education as any other hon. member in the house.

I would like to call to his attention this report, which indicates that as a result of those direct grants given to the provinces prior to April 1, 1948, in addition to the schools which had been assisted there were 116 schools either completed, in process of completion or approved by the department for assistance under this act, which means that fifty per cent of the cost of constructing and equipping those 116 schools across Canada would come from these funds. In his report the minister told us that in addition