JAG/PM 20.1.39

YOUTH TRAINING PLAN

C156116

In connection with the informal conference on youth training held in Ottawa from January the 17th to the 19th, a public meeting was held in the Railway Committee Room, on Wednesday evening, January the 18th. The Honourable Norman Rogers took the chair, and was supported by R. F. Thompson, Supervisor, Youth Training Projects, Department of Labour, and by Denton Massey, M.P. The audience, which overflowed beyond the seating capacity, included Honourable J. E. Michaud, and a number of members from all parties in the House, including Miss MacPhail and Mr. Woodsworth.

The proceedings included the showing of a film made at the Mining Training Camp established as a Youth Training Project, at Emory Creek, B.C., and some fourteen short addresses, by representatives of the project administration from every province. A newspaper summary of these speeches is attached.

Apart from the variety of the projects described. and the marked interest with which all speakers were received, at least two other striking impressions emerged from this meeting. The first was the evident sense of effective co-operation which has grown up, not only as between the Department of Labour and each of the provincial authorities administering the plan, but in the communities in which particular projects have been or are centred. second was a very vivid demonstration of Canadian types. If one regarded the fourteen individuals who spoke as representative Canadians - the Chairman in fact so referred to them - any suggestion of sectional or dividing interests seemed to vanish because of the absorbing portrayal of what was actually being done to grapple with the whole question of unemployment of young people. Whether it was the technical matter-of-factness of the provincial forester of British Columbia, or a mines supervisor from Nova Scotia; the sage idealism springing from rural Manitoba, or the sturdy resourcefulness of New Brunswick, or the eloquent advocacy of vocational guidance from Quebec, everything bespoke a

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