

trades, to training in the metal trades and in tools and diemaking, in which, as the hon. member suggests, there is a very small surplus. I would not want to be too specific about laboratory practice, but there will doubtless be some.

Mr. MacNICOL: I had in mind the various items that enter into the construction of steel, of which we shall require such a large production in this war. There will be some instruction in foundry practice, I presume, because all our technical schools now have foundry furnaces within their walls, and I presume there will be also instruction in electricity and in the making of the various parts used in aeroplanes, diesel engines and so forth. If so, that is fine; the minister should be commended if such a programme is to be carried on. Such training of this kind will be very beneficial; it is a step in the right direction.

Under the bill that was passed in the United States instruction is to be given in the technical schools in four major courses of study in the various trades I have mentioned—steel, the metal trades, and so forth—and parallel instruction in electricity and allied subjects. I find in that bill something which I presume the minister also has in mind—that in training men regard will be had to supply and demand. On the other side they are very particular to see that there will not be four or five qualified tool and diemakers applying for the one job, and they have arranged to have regard to the law of supply and demand. But in this country the demand in my judgment will, owing to munition production, greatly exceed the supply, so I do not think we need to worry very much about an over-supply. If the minister keeps that consideration in mind, his bill will perhaps be more effective than it otherwise would be.

Perhaps under this bill the department would undertake to keep a record of those about to graduate—I am speaking particularly of factory employees—so that they might be placed in factories which will be requiring their services or which will shortly be called upon to produce war equipment. The main purpose of the bill this session is altogether different from the purpose of the previous bill, because under this bill the purpose is to provide a sufficient number of qualified mechanics in all the trades allied with steel and iron production so that we shall have a sufficient number of men available to produce munitions and all the other equipment that is necessary to win the war.

Mr. McLARTY: I thank the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. MacNicol) again for his constructive suggestions. I am advised that the arrangements for the use of the technical schools this summer call for 4,000 to 4,500 for courses in instruction, and we are going to endeavour to speed that up. We are going to use instructors in technical schools who have been kind enough to offer their services. We are also going to have instructors from different plants. We have already made a survey of the amount of labour immediately required not only in each plant but in each portion of each plant, and we are endeavouring in every possible way to speed up the training in order to meet the demand.

Mr. MacINNIS: Since the beginning of the war there has been a continuous increase in the cost of living. That increase is not yet burdensome to persons with wages or salaries over \$1,500 or running into several thousand dollars, but it has a very important bearing on the standard of living of those who must live on \$200 or \$300 a year, as many of the unemployed have to do. Has there been any conference with the provincial authorities with a view to increasing the relief allowance to take care of the increased cost of living?

Mr. McLARTY: The position of the dominion government is this, and I think perhaps I have stated it before. The provincial governments and the municipalities are the ones that fix the quantum of individual relief. Our arrangement with all the provinces except New Brunswick is that we shall contribute dollar for dollar with the province. Answering the specific question which the hon. member has asked, there has been no conference between the dominion and provincial authorities relative to an increase in the quantum of individual relief as a result of any rise in the cost of living, the reason being that that is purely a matter of provincial and municipal determination, we simply paying dollar for dollar with the province.

Mr. MacINNIS: Has the federal Department of Labour been approached by any province for an increased grant in aid owing to the situation which I have just mentioned? It is very well known to the house, I think, that many provinces are in such a position that they cannot increase their grants or aid to the municipalities until they first receive increased aid from the federal authority.

Mr. McLARTY: I think perhaps the hon. gentleman is putting the cart before the horse. Answering offhand, the dominion Department of Labour, so far as I know, has not been approached by any province relative to the