

in 1917, under which Congress provides for a grant to the several states, but they have very elaborate machinery in connection with that law for the supervision and control of the expenditures. Notwithstanding the fact that the various state authorities in the different states have full jurisdiction over the technical education, under the Smith-Hughes law by which grants similar to these are made by the federal authorities in the United States, they provide for the measure of control and supervision to which I have referred. I feel quite certain that the technical education board that has been established under the law of the United States will render very valuable service to all the states of the Union that take advantage of the law. I am in hopes that the department of Labour here can secure the services of at least one, and possibly two first-class experts, and that these experts, in travelling throughout Canada and holding conferences with the men who are engaged in this work, will be able to render valuable services in this direction.

Mr. PEDLOW: The press despatch from which I have quoted merely made the statement that that sum had been granted by the United States Government for that purpose; it gave none of the details of the working out of the proposition. If the minister wishes I can produce the press despatch in question.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: I think we ought to avoid as much as possible building up

a technical education department at Ottawa, because it really is not necessary. When this Bill passes and the provinces undertake the work, there will be a technical education branch in each province and it would be a mistake for us to create a department here with such inspectors, clerks, and officers as are named in the Bill, at vast expense when it appears to be unnecessary. I do not think such a thing is required in the case of the grant that is given for the purposes of agriculture. The work to be done at Ottawa should be very small indeed—simply to pay over the money. The whole responsibility resting upon the local administration, it will be for them to show that they are expending that money according to agreement. I hope the minister does not intend to establish an expensive department in Ottawa to watch the provinces in the administration of this grant.

[Mr. Calder.]

Mr. CALDER: No, it is not necessary to do that; but it seems to me it is very necessary, if grants are to be paid to, and agreements entered into with the several provinces that the minister who is responsible for that work should have at hand a man upon whose judgment he can very largely rely. Neither the minister nor the officials in his department, as at present constituted, are necessarily qualified in the field of technical education which is a specialized business, and unless the minister has some person at hand who can advise him in all these matters he will be more or less at sea. If I remember correctly, when provision was made for grants to agricultural education, one of the first things the Government did was to secure the services of Mr. C. C. James, who was recognized as one of the best agricultural educationists in Canada; and from what personal knowledge I have of his work in our own province Mr. C. C. James in consultation with the provincial officers rendered very valuable service. I cannot see myself any necessity for the building up of a large staff. I think all the minister will require will be at least one man, and possibly two, of the class that I have referred to, because they will have no administrative duties at all.

Mr. McKENZIE: The Minister, I am sure, will appreciate the very strong conscientious objections that were made by some members on this side against any encroachment upon the scope of provincial jurisdiction, particularly in the matter of education which is left entirely to the provinces, in which views I fully concur. At the same time I do not object to what the Government is doing, because we started out along those lines when the Laurier Government was in power. That Government appointed a commission to investigate the question of technical education, and the present legislation, although very late, is the fruit of that inquiry. Therefore, I cannot say that it should not go into effect. But I must respect the opinions of hon. gentlemen who are opposed to any incursions into the jurisdiction of the provinces in this connection. I would suppose that the terms of subsection (c) of section 2 provides for the relation that will exist between the department at Ottawa which will have charge of the expenditure and the provincial authorities, because there has to be an agreement and the former will have full authority to make such an agreement as it may deem ample to safe-