

Supply—Finance

payment of salaries, wages and other pay list charges. I am just wondering what type of employee it covers.

Mr. Harris: This is to cover any change in the prevailing rate wages which might occur during the year. We may require it to provide increased payments, if there are any.

Mr. Monteith: A special reserve.

Mr. Harris: Right.

Item agreed to.

Grants to universities—

132. To provide grants to institutions of higher learning recognized in each province by the government of Canada and the government of the province as being universities or institutions of equivalent standing equal to an amount, for each province, not exceeding 50 cents per head of its population as certified by the dominion bureau of statistics divided among the recognized institutions of the province proportionately to their enrolment of full time intramural students in personal attendance at the recognized institution or at an institution in the same province affiliated with it who are registered in courses of university level recognized as leading to and counting year for year toward a university degree awarded by a university in Canada and the Minister of Finance may for this purpose more particularly define the terms "university level" and "university degree", \$7,986,000.

Mr. Monteith: Can the minister give us a list of universities and how much they are to receive out of this particular amount?

Mr. Harris: Yes, I can, Mr. Chairman, but once again it consists of about 5½ or six pages.

Mr. Monteith: Are there that many universities in Canada?

Mr. Harris: It is double spacing, and there are explanatory notes between. There are a good many more than my hon. friend perhaps thinks of, having in mind colleges and the like.

Mr. Nowlan: Can the minister give us a breakdown of the amount per head paid in the different provinces? That would be more helpful I think, than to give each university. If the minister happens to have it as between Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia, and so on, it would be helpful.

Mr. Harris: Yes, Mr. Chairman: Newfoundland, \$357.64; Prince Edward Island, \$207.69; Nova Scotia, \$80.85; New Brunswick, \$112.36; Ontario, \$137.84; Manitoba, \$101.55; Saskatchewan, \$151.97; Alberta, \$149.80; British Columbia, \$99.42.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Chairman, I know the minister would not expect this item to pass without my making my usual contribution. I am going to take only a minute or two. The figures he has just given us illustrate

again, I think, the argument that I have attempted to make on various occasions. The only thing that gives me hope is that I notice year after year the same argument is advanced and the government finally adopts it if it is sound, particularly when an election is coming around. I am sure my argument is sound in this case and I therefore hope that at the next session the government will adopt it. I did not take down all the minister's figures but I have the per capita figure for the students in Newfoundland and it is \$357.64. The grant per capita student in Nova Scotia is \$80.85. In other words, the grant per student in Newfoundland is about 400 per cent more than in Nova Scotia. I admit at once that Newfoundland is an exception because they have fewer students, of course, in proportion to their total population. The figure in the other provinces is over \$100 and in some over \$200. I simply say again that I think there should be at least a minimum grant such as this government adopted and used during the war when every university received, I think it was, \$125 per head. The Minister of Labour, who was then a university president, knows something of how the matter worked out. I think it was a much more satisfactory base than this. The fact remains that in the maritimes generally, but in Nova Scotia particularly, we are being penalized because we have more private universities and more students proportionate to our population, and therefore we get much less, but we got less to start with. I would hope that the government will give consideration to this matter in the very near future. I realize there are problems and difficulties in the way but some different system has to be adopted. As a matter of fact, I am sure that 10 years from now this grant, which is being made today to the universities, will look picayune, because the grant will then be on a much more substantial scale.

The whole problem of university grants and education generally is something that the next parliament, after the next general election, and during the four years which follow that, will have to look into. In the meantime we are all familiar with the announcement of the International Nickel Company, which was made last week, that they are going to give a grant of \$2,500,000 to the universities. Some of these grants will be made to the maritime universities, but a comparison will show that they are getting a paltry amount under this arrangement. There is no point in continuing this argument at the moment. It is just possible that when the next session comes around, the minister, with that kindly smile of his, will