

Supply—Labour

Montana, 400; maple sugar harvesters from Quebec to New England, 400; tobacco curers from the southern states to Ontario and Quebec, 1,652. I think these figures will indicate that this program is playing a very important part in making labour sufficiently mobile to be moved from one part of Canada to another in order to save the crops and harvests in the various parts of Canada.

Incidentally I think that the hon. member for Nanaimo will agree that a project such as this, which under reasonably good circumstances moves Canadians from one part of Canada to another, with an opportunity of returning to their families within a reasonable period, affords them an opportunity of better understanding the country.

Item agreed to.

Vocational Training Co-ordination Act, 1942—
193. Administration, §30,431.

Mr. Pearkes: I would like to say a word about vote No. 193, because I was rather closely connected with the vocational training movement at the close of the last war. I have in my constituency a small but efficient school, which has a capable staff and a lot of admirable equipment. It performs a useful service in helping to maintain the motor vehicles of the various departments of government. But I feel that full advantage is not being taken of that school, and that a larger number of students could attend the school. Most of the classes deal with the maintenance of motor vehicles, particularly those which are connected with logging and lumbering. There are also special classes to train young men in the use of the power saw and other modern lumbering appliances.

The point I want to make particularly at this moment is that it is not being used to its full capacity, and at the same time we hear that the armed services are experiencing a shortage of tradesmen. Could there not be a little closer co-ordination, as there was during the war, between this vocational training system and the training of tradesmen, as we call them, in the armed services? I should like to suggest to the minister that these classes which are now being held in these vocational training schools—I speak only with knowledge of the one in my constituency—be extended so that they could train the tradesmen who are urgently needed in the armed services.

There is one other point. I still feel that we have not given the fullest possible opportunity, even to the men who were discharged and who were taken into these training courses, to qualify themselves. I

think there was a limitation on the number of courses that they might take, but I hope that that might yet be extended.

It is with some concern that I notice there has been a general reduction of over \$1 million in these three items. I would hope that further consideration might be given and, rather than reducing the activities of vocational training at this time, encouragement might be given to extension of these facilities.

Mr. Gregg: I am glad that the hon. member has said that, because it is exactly what we are doing. A little later we shall come to an item in the supplementary estimates for the special purpose he has mentioned. The whole field of vocational training is being extended, even though it is not reflected in the amount of money in the main estimates. The reason for that is that there will perhaps be fewer people, due to fuller employment, available to take full-time training such as this. We are now training men on behalf of national defence, for the army and the air force. I understand that an application will be coming from that department for the navy as well, for training similar to that conducted during the last war. As the hon. member knows, the federal government pays the full amount of that training.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Is all of that training conducted in educational institutions? How much of it is in the actual course of the practising trades?

Mr. Gregg: It is all done in co-operation with the provinces, and in vocational schools.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Is all of it conducted in that manner? I remember being through the Ford plant some time ago, and I thought I saw some people there who were—I shall not say apprentices, for perhaps that word has a technical significance—quasi-apprentices. Does that mean they were practising temporarily in the plant what they had learned in school?

Mr. Martin: The Ford company has its own school.

Mr. Gregg: As my colleague says, they have their own school. At the same time, in some plants such as that, the command makes arrangements direct with a plant for the training of personnel rather than doing it through these schools.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): When the minister says "command"—

Mr. Gregg: That is national defence.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): I still think that this training is all being done in what I might call the classroom or the laboratory, and not in the factory. In other words, it does not include apprenticeship?