

only, and do not mean that what I am going to propose has to be carried out to the letter.

Mr. LaCROIX: Is the hon. member aware of the fact that education, according to our constitution, is entirely under the control of the provinces?

Mr. ZAPLITNY: I am aware of that, and in due course I will answer the hon. member's question. I shall be glad to deal with it as I go on. According to a survey report of the Canada and Newfoundland Education Association, 1943, we were spending at that time \$146 million on education in this country. We cannot say that this is either adequate or inadequate without reference to the recommendations of the committee in that respect. They recommended that an annual increase of \$144 million be made, which is almost double what was spent at that time, and in addition they recommended that a capital expenditure of \$59 million be made in order to improve buildings, equipment, facilities and so on, making a total increase of \$203 million. If we add that to the \$146 million spent at that time, it comes to \$349 million.

As I say, I am not using these figures because I am asking the government to spend any specific amount of money, but rather as a comparison to see what the position is. It means that if we work it out on the basis of the Canadian population, estimated roughly at twelve million, we have a per capita of \$29, which would answer the recommendation of the Canada and Newfoundland Education Association.

The reason I quote these figures is to show what it would take in the way of financing by the provinces, the municipalities and the federal government to implement the report of the C.N.E.A. Out of the \$29 per capita, how much is the federal government proposing to spend in the financing of education at the present time? The only source from which I can get figures in that respect is the dominion proposals to the provinces in connection with the dominion-provincial conference, which appear at page 46 of the brief. All members, I believe, have the brief.

With the exception of special training given in connection with rehabilitation, the dominion proposes these sums of money to the provinces, if an agreement is reached. First of all there is a lump sum of \$85,000. I would not say that is a ridiculous figure, but I do not know how it got in there; perhaps it is a left-over from some benevolent fund. That \$85,000 is to be spent in this way: \$5,000 to Prince Edward Island and \$10,000 to each of the other

eight provinces. However, it gets better as it goes along. There is an amount of \$1,915,000 to be allotted annually to the provinces on the basis of the number of youth in the age group of fifteen to nineteen in each province. There is a capital allotment of \$10 million to be used for putting up buildings and getting equipment in connection with vocational training. This is on the basis of vocational and technical training, none of it being earmarked for elementary or public school education.

This works out to a total of \$12 million proposed by the dominion to the provinces if an agreement is reached. Going back to the per capita figure of \$29, it means that the dominion is proposing to spend one dollar per capita out of the \$29 that needs to be spent in order to provide even a modest and reasonable standard of education in the country, which leaves \$28 out of the \$29 per capita to be raised by the provinces and the municipalities.

How is this amount to be raised, and in what proportions? According to figures I have from the bureau of statistics for 1941, the latest I could get in this respect, the municipalities were raising 83.3 per cent on school finance, and the provinces 16.7. From the figures I am using for illustration purposes it can easily be seen that under the present proposals of the dominion government to the provinces, and under the present system of financing education in this country, the municipalities will still have to carry the heaviest burden. Then come the provinces, and after that the dominion, whose costs will be very light in comparison. I myself cannot see how this can be done under the present set-up. If the proposals of the dominion to the provinces were implemented I do not believe that even a minimum standard of education could be attained in Canada without much greater contributions by the dominion government.

So much for the present financial situation. The resolution calls for equality of educational opportunity in Canada. This is the theme to which I want to devote most of my time today. No one will argue with me when I say that unless we have equal opportunity in education, and an equal standard of education, or come as closely as we can to it, all talk of national unity is futile. Last night we heard a great deal from all sides of the house about the need for national unity. Unless we can first get equality of opportunity in the field of education across this dominion, we shall not reach the stage of national unity which we all desire.

[Mr. Zaplitny.]