

Supply—External Affairs

their own countries when they return, and to make a part, admittedly only a small part, of Canada's educational facilities available to those students is a very excellent gesture. This is not a grand scheme involving fabulous sums of money. It is more of a symbol of what can be done among nations of the commonwealth to promote good relations and to promote the training of citizens of various countries in order to help in the future development of their own lands. The point I should like to make at this time is that I do hope this scheme may be broadened or that a scheme similar to this may be added thereto. We are a bi-cultural nation. We have universities in Canada engaged in education and training where French is the language used. I ask the minister to what extent the facilities of our French universities can be used in addition, of course, to the facilities of our English universities.

I make the suggestion to the minister that Canada should explore the possibility of entering into an exchange scholarship scheme with the French community, having in mind particularly the fact in Africa a number of nations within the French community are now emerging to national and independent status. This would be not only a means of providing educational facilities for young citizens of those countries but it would also tend, I believe, to improve our relations with the French community and provide facilities for the training of the citizens of those countries to help in their own future development.

I think it would be somewhat difficult, considering all the circumstances, to provide a very substantial portion of training in our French universities for students already coming to Canada under the commonwealth scheme. Therefore this might be an innovation of a type which would enable our French-speaking universities to play a full and important part in the training of citizens from other countries in our own land.

As I am sure the minister will recognize, this suggestion is not being put forward in any partisan way but is merely an obvious extension of the kind of plan which I believe will commend itself to the Canadian people as a whole and which could play a useful part in the development of the lives of citizens in other countries of the world and also in the national development of the countries from which those people come.

(Translation):

Mr. Boulanger: Mr. Chairman, I was just going to ask almost the same question as the one just put by the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Argue).

I might now ask the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming) to give us more specific de-

[Mr. Argue.]

tails. When Canadian students want to study in another commonwealth country, will they be allowed to do so in their own language, if they are French-speaking Canadians, or will they have to enrol at an English university?

(Text):

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The basic duality of the Canadian culture, of course, is kept in mind at all times. When the Canadian educationists were selected to represent Canada at the Oxford conference last summer, the Canadian group included some very distinguished educationists from the French-speaking universities. I think hon. members will bear in mind that in the provision of openings for students the question rests basically with each university to decide what accommodation it is in a position to offer. In addition, of course, in ascertaining what scholarships can be made available to students from other lands arrangements must be worked out in association with the Canadian universities themselves. This is one reason why the Canadian scholarship committee has been set up.

Mr. Pearson: We have already expressed our support for this scheme. We did so when it was first announced. It is a valuable and imaginative initiative. We all wish it success, and we approve of the estimates for this purpose.

As the minister has pointed out, the value will largely be of a reciprocal character. We think of the scheme largely in terms of students from other parts of the commonwealth coming to Canada, but there is also, of course, the value which the scheme will have for Canadian students who go abroad. As the minister has stated, its special value will be the opportunity it will afford to students from what we sometimes call the materially underdeveloped parts of the commonwealth, though they may not be underdeveloped in other ways at all.

I should hope, though I know the committee will have to work these things out, that special encouragement will be given to these students to go to parts of the commonwealth other than the United Kingdom, because there are so many existing schemes and scholarships by means of which they can go to the United Kingdom at the present time. By the same token, I hope it will be possible to encourage Canadian students to go to parts of the commonwealth other than the United Kingdom to continue their work, because we have so many arrangements enabling our students to go to the United Kingdom at the present time, arrangements from which many of us have benefited.