

The problem of assistance to university and technical students was discussed and it was recommended that more resources be provided for this purpose in the future.

#### TECHNICAL STANDARDS

In discussing the education of technicians, there was a general feeling that some standards should be developed in this area, although there should be sufficient flexibility to permit adjustment to local and provincial requirements.

All members of the Council felt that minimum national standards should be established for courses in institutes of technology and that some effort should be made to guarantee that a technical graduate from any school is acceptable in all parts of Canada. This might require the granting of a diploma or certificate of national recognition, not unlike the interprovincial seal offered in some apprenticeable trades at present.

#### COMPOSITE SCHOOLS

Council members discussed at length what steps must be taken to ensure a satisfactory programme of vocational training at the secondary level, in what is known as the composite high school, which offers both academic and some vocational education.

It was thought that three main factors influenced the success of a programme of this nature at the high-school level. First, there was need for a school administration sympathetic towards and interested in vocational education and training. Secondly, there was a need for properly trained staff. Thirdly, proper equipment was required.

In some cases, it was thought, the academic subjects taught to students in the vocational side of the school did not meet the needs of the vocational student or suit the subject-matter of the vocational courses. In some provinces potential principals of composite schools were given special training designed to help them understand and appreciate the need for vocational education and its primary aims. This was thought to be a way of reducing the problems existing in these schools, because it was felt that, in many cases, principals and teachers were not familiar with vocational education and its aspects.

#### AGRICULTURAL TRAINING

Following the presentation of a statement by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture on vocational training needs in agriculture, the Council decided to appoint a standing committee to investigate what might be done in this field and how it might be accomplished and to report back to the Council with its recommendations and suggestions.

In the statement, the Federation said that what is needed is an accurate assessment of the need for training, so that future programmes can be oriented in the direction of most

return. The brief continued that "whereas in the past farm people have relied upon custom and tradition to guide them in their decisions, today's farmer must be able to weigh the complexities created by local as well as international conditions, and seeing his own operation in this perspective, then make responsible and sound decisions."

The number of apprentices under the federal-provincial agreements in the provinces at the end of the fiscal year was reported to be 19,962, an increase of 1,395 over the previous year. It was also stated that interprovincial examinations were already officially being used in the motor-vehicle repair trade (mechanical) and the electrical construction trade, and that an interprovincial plumbing examination was being used on a trial basis.

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#### AID TO CHILEAN QUAKE VICTIMS

On May 26, Prime Minister Diefenbaker made the following announcement in the House of Commons:

"...Following the brief statement I made in the House yesterday concerning assistance to Chile, I am now able to advise that arrangements have been completed with the Canadian Red Cross Society on their recommendation to make a preliminary contribution of \$10,000 from the International Relief Fund for emergency assistance for the unfortunate victims of this terrible disaster. This initial grant is in cash, and the money was sent by cable yesterday afternoon. The Secretary of State for External Affairs..., who is in Chile today, is expected to present this contribution to the Chilean Red Cross and will at the same time convey to the Chilean Government the deep sympathy and concern which the Canadian people feel for those who are suffering so dreadfully in this disaster.

"Only a few moments ago I talked with the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the telephone, and he said there was an urgent need for emergency supplies. The Government is giving its immediate attention to ways in which Canada might help in meeting this need. The Canadian Red Cross Society has arranged to send to Chile 48 cases of new clothing and much-needed medicine and drugs, and it is expected that these goods and commodities will be shipped by air.

"I can assure the House that the Government, in co-operation with the Canadian Red Cross, is keeping in the closest possible touch with the situation in Chile and will do everything in its power to provide appropriate assistance. I might also say that I feel the House will give support to the provision of an RCAF aircraft to convey the necessary medical supplies and the like to the stricken victims, and, providing there is agreement in all parts of the House, arrangements will be made accordingly."