

*Education*

I understand, as the hon. member for Royal (Mr. Brooks) said, that recruiting officers were often faced with young men who wished to join up but who could not do so for lack of education.

I believe that the Family Allowances Act passed by the federal government has somewhat made up for that lack of education because children are now compelled to attend school up to sixteen years of age in order to be entitled to family allowance. The government have thus killed two birds with one stone. By granting subsidies to the provinces, the federal government would set an example with regard to respect for autonomy and this would lead all provincial governments, even that of my province, to respect not only the autonomy of the central government but also that of the municipal councils and school boards. I do not say this for the sake of making unkind remarks but I have sometimes heard it said that the autonomy of municipal and school authorities was more or less respected. I feel that if the provincial authorities were given full and exclusive control of the funds granted by the federal government for educational purposes, it would be possible to respect the minorities as well in all provinces of the dominion as they are in the province of Quebec.

In *The Ensign* of May 20, 1950, Dr. Percival is quoted as saying that the development of Protestant schools in the province of Quebec is akin to a fairy tale. They have made enormous progress because the autonomy of the Protestant school system has been respected and encouraged by the various governments. Needless to say that we who believe, in spite of the diversity of creeds, systems, habits, and outlooks, in unity, trust that one day those provinces which will not respect minorities, especially as regards the educational system, will be looked upon as oddities.

We shall never deplore such a state of affairs in the province of Quebec, because the respect of minorities has always been sacred to the provincial government, either under the leadership of Mr. Taschereau, Mr. Godbout or Mr. Duplessis.

It has often been said, in the committee on radio of which I am a member, by people well conversant with educational and cultural matters, that our country has many gifted young people with a talent for music, piano,

[Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf).]

violin or singing. We should foster such talents by way of federal subsidies to the provinces.

Such grants to the various provinces would contribute to the development of artistic appreciation and would enable our local artists, in the field of vocal or instrumental music, to give a better account of themselves, because they could benefit from larger provincial grants. We could, as in other countries, organize a national opera company which would put our best artists in the limelight and set an example to other countries of the world.

Because of a lack of funds, support and encouragement on the part of the dominion or provincial governments, talented Canadians must often seek fame and recognition abroad, art values not being well enough understood in this country. Musical associations are not sufficiently subsidized. I repeat what I have already stated on many occasions, that these associations should be subsidized by the provincial governments or, indirectly, by the dominion government.

Last summer, groups of teachers and pupils from the province of Quebec, co-operating with similar groups in Ontario and the maritimes—there may be other provinces of which I am not aware—visited each other in order to foster the study of this country's two official languages. I congratulate them.

I see that the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) is in his seat. There is in his constituency a quaint little town called Trois Pistoles where, each year, many students gather from nearly all the provinces of Canada. They come there to study French. I am confident that when the hon. member rises to speak, he will deal with the matter, on which he is much better informed than I am.

In any event, that goes to prove that, when we believe in unity in spite of a diversity of languages, of beliefs, of abilities, we have reason to so believe because culture and good will are the foundation of mutual understanding. They are means that can always be used to make of our country a model of mutual understanding and prove to the rest of the world that in this Canada of ours, although it is governed by ten provincial governments and one federal government, we understand the importance of uniting in order that our fellow citizens may acquire a thorough bilingual education.

I have just been overseas. I saw there something which pleased me no less than it surprised me. In London, capital of the