

tion of the grants voted at that time, which amounted to some \$1,500,000.

These conditional grants, small though they were, had given a boost to technical education across Canada, and there was much criticism of the Canadian government on their threatened discontinuance. Accordingly in 1931 the Bennett administration voted a further \$750,000 only, for fifteen years, by way of educational assistance to the provinces. When I see the change of attitude of some of my hon. friends to the right on this subject I need only say that times must have changed indeed since 1931, because, of the grant of \$750,000 for fifteen years, made by the Bennett administration, not one penny has yet been spent.

During the late depression years, and during the war, some further expenditures—many of which have been referred to in this house this afternoon—were made by the dominion government for various types of relief and military and industrial education. Since world war II, the Department of Veterans Affairs has assumed the bulk, not all, of the cost of veteran education, and of apprenticeship and industrial training programs.

So, Mr. Speaker, I should like to draw to the attention of the house and the country how insignificant in fact has been the help of the federal government toward this most important branch of Canadian life. In this country we prate about the menace of communism. We talk of its danger, but we have not the national backbone to do anything about it in a way that really counts. If our way of life is superior—and I feel that it can be made so—I suggest that there is no better way to make it work than by putting cash on the line to educate our future citizens, in order that they may be equipped to live the Canadian way and may be immune to the blandishments of the totalitarian ideology. The man trained to think for himself and equipped for the emergencies of life, given the opportunity to live his life in the way of his own choosing, is not led astray by any foreign siren.

It is the duty of this House of Commons to take practical steps to win the war of ideas. Prohibitions and commandments are not enough. The most practical form is to vitalize, through provincial subsidies, the educational sinews with which the base of undesirable isms may be shattered. Where a province spends a good deal on education, its effects go beyond the borders of the province itself.

I have shown in a rough way what limited aid has been given from the federal purse to meet the educational needs of our people. In 1883 Quebec stated that federal subsidies

were intended to be sufficient to meet local expenditures. In the field of education we are moving farther and farther from this implied condition of confederation. In 1900, according to the dominion bureau of statistics, the total enrolment in the publicly controlled day schools of Canada was 1,086,381, while in 1944 it was 2,056,743, or roughly double the enrolment at the beginning of the century. By provinces this figure is divided as follows:

	1900	1944
Prince Edward Island	21,289	17,179
Nova Scotia	100,129	114,879
New Brunswick	67,159	89,797
Quebec	311,253	620,106
Ontario	494,217	645,308
Manitoba	50,460	119,974

Saskatchewan and Alberta were not separated in 1900, the provinces not yet having been formed, but for 1900 the combined figure for the two provinces was 20,343, and for 1944 the figures were 179,372 for Saskatchewan and 151,985 for Alberta. The table continues:

	1900	1944
British Columbia	21,531	119,043
Total	1,086,381	2,056,743

Figures for high school enrolment, while not available for 1900, show an even greater expansion than do those for elementary schools in the figures available for the period from 1921 to 1944.

The dominion bureau of statistics indicates that in 1921 the number of students in secondary schools, above grade 8, in Canada, excluding Quebec, for which no statistics for 1921 are available, were 86,156, and in 1944 had almost trebled, the total being 241,215.

With the consent of the house I should like to put on the record a summary prepared by the dominion bureau of statistics, showing the number of students in secondary schools of Canada for the years 1921 and 1944:

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Golding): Has the hon. member leave to put the table on *Hansard*?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Mr. PROBE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The table is as follows:

	1921	1944
Prince Edward Island ...	1,737	2,548
Nova Scotia	9,705	14,341
New Brunswick	2,863	9,735
Ontario	42,551	111,448
Manitoba	8,615	18,831
Saskatchewan	5,917	31,202
Alberta	7,509	28,285
British Columbia	7,259	24,825
Total (Excl. Quebec)...	86,156	241,215

The two sets of figures that I have thus far presented indicate the expansion in enrolment