

Education

higher than that of any other province, and our debt charges as a percentage of revenue are the greatest of any province.

Perhaps some figures would make this point clear. In Quebec the per capita debt is \$92.24, the lowest in the dominion. I shall not give the figures for the other provinces, but in New Brunswick it is the highest, at \$256.62. Nova Scotia comes next with \$190.16. These figures will give some idea of the burden on the shoulders of the small provinces. Debt charges as a percentage of revenue in Alberta are at their lowest point of 6.6 per cent. In New Brunswick the figure is 23.8 per cent. These figures and percentages give some idea of the burden placed upon the people in the small provinces.

There are other reasons why I think the rest of Canada should bear some of the burden, particularly that of the maritime provinces. Because of the concentration of industry in Ontario, Quebec and other parts of Canada, thousands of young people who were educated in the smaller provinces have come to the industrial provinces to build their industry and to take charge of their different organizations.

In those circumstances because of our loss of citizens the rest of Canada should help bear the burden of education. Then there is another great reason. During the last war I was connected with the army for some time, and in calling up recruits we found a deplorable situation affecting thousands of our young men all across Canada. I was particularly familiar with the conditions in my own province. We saw these young men who had very little education, some of them with no education at all, and others with third or fourth-grade standing. These were splendid young men, physically, who wanted to join the army and bear their share of the burden. However in many cases they were turned down because they had no education. These men who wanted to be engineers or artillerymen had to be told that they could not be accepted because their education did not qualify them for those branches of the service.

Many of them were sent home. I am not advocating that we educate our people for the army, but I do mention this as an illustration to show the deplorable condition of general education throughout the country as reflected in the statistics compiled when the call-up was made.

It is not my intention to speak at greater length. I am in wholehearted support of the resolution, and I hope that for the interest of Canada and for the people as a whole, from one end of the country to the other,

some means may be found whereby educational opportunities may be equal to all people from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

(Translation):

Mr. Pierre Gauthier (Portneuf): In rising to take part in this debate on education, I am not unaware that the matter is very controversial and that any words of mine, unless carefully weighed, may give rise to more or less unpalatable polemics. The house may rest at ease in that respect. It is not my intention to refer to musty records now consigned to oblivion. I will deal only with a few general considerations and will confine my remarks to the cultural aspect of the matter, in my province and throughout Canada.

I listened with great attention when the hon. member for Spadina (Mr. Croll) and the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon) told us they had married schoolteachers. I was all the more interested in that my own wife, who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, herself taught young children for quite some time. My mother was also a teacher and I remember how, during old-time Canadian winters, like this one, when a heavy blanket of snow covered the earth in immaculate whiteness and the cold was nipping, she would find pleasure in recalling, by the warmth of the hearth, her memories as a schoolteacher at the little school of the Champlain county area called Murphy's Mill, near St. Stanislas.

It was there I began to understand the teaching profession. I found out what it meant to be an educationist. Later, having become a doctor, I understood that to be a schoolteacher required a degree of unselfishness only exceeded by that required in the practice of medicine.

I often hear it said that it is more blessed to give than to receive. The motion under discussion deals with federal aid to provincial governments. I would be in favour of these grants, on one condition though, that the provinces themselves administer those funds to assist education. There is no need for me to elaborate.

I live in a province which holds its autonomy very dear. To my mind the provincial government which would receive these federal subsidies would be doubly happy to redistribute them to those who need them in the province of Quebec, that is to say to every type of school within our educational system.