

Education

matter of determining what is right and what is wrong. If we are right in subsidizing education, then we should not let anything stand in its way.

As to Nova Scotia, I know that financially the province cannot do much about the matter. They have not sufficient revenue. I have here the figures showing their total revenue for the year 1949, and I shall just outline it briefly. As to their department of highways and public works, their total income in that field was \$9,522,698. From the Nova Scotia liquor commission they received another \$8,083,977.19. Their revenue was not bad on liquor. Those figures account for about 51 per cent of their total revenue. The other 40 per cent is made up of grants from the federal government, with small miscellaneous amounts accounting for the other five or six per cent. Having regard to the job they have done in education, in providing schools and so on, that kind of revenue leaves Nova Scotia at the end of their rope; and they admit that quite frankly. At the present time in that province there is talk of a sales tax. What they are going to do about it by way of raising additional revenues, I do not know. That is up to the legislature. I know, however, that the province is at the end of its rope. It cannot pass anything on to the municipalities; because in my own town of Glace Bay, for example, 60 per cent of the total revenue goes into schools. That figure is away over and above what that town can afford. They must restrict many of their other services, and that is what they have been doing. Clearly, this matter of raising the teachers' salaries is a "must", and it is a matter of receiving some assistance from the federal government. Under the present taxation arrangement, the provincial government hands back to the federal government something like \$24 million a year, in round figures, in certain fields of taxation that they have passed over to the federal government. These agreements expire in March, 1952. Negotiations to revise these agreements have been going on for some time, and are still going on. It may be necessary to revise them and to pass more revenue back to the province. That may be an answer. Maybe the provincial government can do something with their sales tax. That remains to be seen. Any government that gives the kind of subsidies I shall mention to organizations, for example, like the Dominion Steel and Coal Company should, when thinking in terms of providing the means of livelihood for the teachers in that province, consider seriously something by way of federal aid.

This sessional paper 186A is a return to me dated June 1950, and it shows that the federal government paid to the Dominion Steel and Coal Company a coal subsidy of \$366,442.55, a steel subsidy of \$617,285.09 and a freight subvention on steel of \$1,649,024.68. Then the Department of Transport, under the Maritime Freight Rates Act, on a short line of about twenty-six miles between Glace Bay and Louisburg granted a subsidy of \$395,313.14.

Possibly those subsidies are necessary; I am not arguing on that point. However, I am pointing out that in subsidizing industry the federal government is very generous. But on this matter of subsidizing teachers' salaries in a province like Nova Scotia or, indeed, in the whole of the maritime provinces for that matter, the federal government is parsimonious. No consideration was given to the matter, not even at a dominion-provincial conference. I am sure Newfoundland is in exactly the same position.

I do not wish to occupy too much of the time of the house. I wished merely to set out first that in my view this is a financial matter. Secondly, I do not think we should use the British North America Act as an excuse to keep our teachers in the maritime provinces particularly on salaries below the average rates received by labourers in this country today.

Third, if industry can be subsidized to the extent I have just indicated, then I say it is about time we brushed aside the legalities and the stumbling blocks that are thought up merely as straw men, and recognized the fact that a decent standard of living for the teachers who are moulding our future citizens is a "must", and that we should get down to business and subsidize by federal aid.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar):

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to make a lengthy speech on this occasion, because the ground has been well covered. However, having been associated with teachers' organizations for a long number of years, I should like to give my support to the resolution offered by the hon. member for Saskatoon (Mr. Knight).

I hope on this occasion the house will have an opportunity of expressing its opinion by a vote. When the matter was before the house a year or so ago the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner), who at that time spoke for the government, said he hoped the resolution would come to a vote. However there were so many speakers that evening, who spoke at some length, that it was finally talked out. I hope that will not happen this time, particularly because, even if we do use up the time this evening, the resolution will come