| ***Province*** | ***Législature*** | ***Session*** | ***Type de discours*** | ***Date du discours*** | ***Locuteur*** | ***Fonction du locuteur*** | ***Parti politique*** |
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| Nouveau-Brunswick | 44e | 2e | Débats sur le discours du budget | 17 novembre 1961 | M. Henry G. Irwin | Ministre de l’éducation | PL |

Mr. Speaker: At the outset I would like to associate my welcome with those of the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition to the students from Campbelton High School and their principal. I am sure that they will enjoy the events of this afternoon and become somewhat more acquainted with legislative procedures.

It is with a feeling of pride that I enter into the debate in reply to the speech from the throne and with honor that I have the privilege of serving my constituency of Charlotte.

Again we have witnessed the grace and dignity of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, J. Leonard O'Brien, on the occasion of the opening of the Second Session of the 44th Parliament of New Brunswick.

He, with his ever gracious lady, served this office with inestimable distinction and we wish them both many years of continued happiness and service to their province.

It fills us all with a great deal of pride as we welcome His Honour to this house and observe the pageantry and ceremony of the house opening unfolding before our eyes.

Mr. Speaker, you have filled your position with distinction. Members on both sides of the house admire and respect your impartial rulings.

I wish to associate myself with the remarks of previous speakers as we sorrowfully mourn the passing recently of three outstanding citizens of the province of New Brunswick. I refer to Dr. C. H. Blakeny, a former Minister of Education, whose contribution to the educational system of this province will long be remembered. I extend my sincere sympathy and condolences to the family, Mrs. Blakeny, and my colleague, Hon. Mr. DesBrisay and his wife.

Mr. John Niles represented his county of Victoria in this house with distinction for many years. He was highly regarded by his fellow citizens for the competence and ability which he displayed in all his many public service endeavors. We extend to his family our sincere sympathy.

Our sympathy is also extended to the family of Hidulphe Savoie. Many of you remember his long and active service in behalf of the province and the people of the county he represented.

I extend my sincere welcome and congratulations to the successful candidates in the recent by-elections. I refer to Mr. Fraser Kerr, representing Northumberland County, and Mr. Richard Hatfield, representing Carleton County.

I also extend my congratulations to my colleagues, Mr. Gilbert Robichaud, Moncton City, mover of the address from the speech from the throne, and Mr. H. H. Williamson, the seconder. They distinguished themselves in their presentations and maintained the very highest tradition this opportunity afforded them and proved to this house and their constituents they are deserving of the support freely given them in the last election.

They displayed a thorough knowledge of their constituencies and the problems of their constituencies and offered positive solutions to many of them. I am proud to be associated with them as I am with all the members of this government.

To the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues we extend our greeting and felicitations. We feel assured they are prepared to give constructive support to legislation introduced this session which they know will have lasting and beneficial effects on the economy of this province.

I would like at this time, to publicly congratulate Norman Buchanan, the former Minister of Lands and Mines, on his appointment on the directorship of the CBC. I am sure that all people in the province and particularly his own county of Charlotte were very pleased to hear this recent announcement.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the remarks of previous speakers and the remarks contained in the speech from the throne in support of a renewed and broader study of all aspects of the Chignecto Canal, including economics, power potential, etc. Never have the people of this province been more united than they are now in support of a comprehensive survey to be instituted. It is most gratifying to note that both sides of this house have, closed ranks and have agreed that in the interests of New Brunswick we speak as one voice.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I express to Lady Dunn the gratitude of the people of St. Andrews and Charlotte County for her understanding and generosity to the people and the community of St. Andrews. This sincere interest in affairs of our town by Lady Dunn has been displayed on many occasions.

I express the deep felt warmth and gratitude of the people of St. Andrews to Lady Dunn. The enormity of her generosity has recently been evidenced by the announcement of the establishment of winter recreational facilities for the town of St. Andrews. This takes the form of an ice skating rink and hockey arena and a curling club of three lanes.

Lady Dunn has, on many occasions, given expression of her deep interest in the people and the community she is proud to call home, and is providing facilities second to none in Canada for both our children and adults of St. Andrews and vicinity.

Once again we have been honored to have with us this fall a most distinguished gentleman who, on every visit is so proud to proclaim for all to hear that New Brunswick is his native home. I refer to Lord Beaverbrook.

Once again we have been witnesses to his magnanimous generosity, his unlimited energies, and unlimited ambitions to provide New Brunswick with a cultural center that will be the envy of any community of the world. Together with Lady Dunn he has undoubtedly established Fredericton as a world center of the arts.

We all deeply regretted hearing of his recent illness while in Fredericton and we sincerely trust that His Lordship is now fully recovered.

Mr. Speaker, we have witnessed this past year a most unusual and disturbing oddity of weather conditions. Weather conditions which few of us have witnessed in our lifetime. Conditions which brought with them tragedy, heartache, suffering, serious loss of property and, even more serious, loss of the means of livelihood.

. First, we witnessed the largest snowfall ever recorded in many areas of this province, followed by a winter which extended well into the spring. This resulted in almost a complete loss of income for the lobster fishermen of our east coast at a time when normally they would look for substantial revenue from the spring lobster season.

This tragedy was immediately followed by one of even more disasterous results. I refer to the devastation, destruction, suffering and hardships wrought by the flooding on the Nashwaak, Miramichi and St. John rivers. Our deepest sympathy is extended to those courageous New Brunswickers who witnessed loss of home, farms, farm equipment, barns, livestock and everything for which they had toiled so hard for so many years.

We express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to all the wonderful people who spontaneously and unselfishly gave of their time, talent and energies to organize the disaster relief fund. Special commendation is due to Brig, Ernest Anderson, Brig. Michael Wardell and the Disaster Relief Committee for the initiative, resourcefulness and tact displayed throughout this trying and difficult period.

Our appreciation is also express-to the newspapers, radio, television and all others who rallied to the support of the committee.

Our highways and bridges suffered tremendous destruction and damage was estimated at almost $2,000,000. I commend the Minister of Public Works and his department for the organized and efficient manner with which they tackled and overcame problems which appeared on the surface to be insurmountable. I know they have the heartfelt thanks and appreciation of all the people affected. Temporary bridge detours were erected. All highways that were destroyed have been rebuilt, repaired and paved. New bridges are under construction, others have been repaired and are now in a safe driving condition.

During the summer months we witnessed an extended period of very hot dry weather which turned our forests tinder dry and resulted in several serious forest fires with the resultant loss of a great acreage of our finest forest wealth.

The past fishing season was disastrous to sardine and inshore ground fishing industry. It was particularly severe in my own county of Charlotte and the east coast of the province in Gloucester and Northumberland counties. My deep felt sympathies are extended to these wonderful citizens who are subjected, even in normal times, to many hardships and back-breaking labor to reap their income from the sea.

A recent report in one of the local newspapers indicates the seriousness of this disaster. It states that the Grand Ma nan weir fisherman annually invest for new equipment, repairs for weirs, an amount of nearly $500,000. At the date of the issue of the newspaper the landed value of herring caught was $20,000.

The Leader of the Opposition delights in a vain attempt to convince the citizens of New Brunswick that road construction in New Brunswick has been cut back by 55 per cent. All the while he is evangelizing throughout the province preaching this sermon, he is fully aware he is misrepresenting the facts.

How can he be sincere when, in his own constituency of Kings, he is witnessing the greatest road building program ever undertaken in one year in Kings County.

Mr. FAIRWEATHER protested.

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD: Hear, hear! That's right.

Hon. Mr. IRWIN: I ask the hon. gentleman, is it not frustrating and ill rewarding to continue to beat a dead horse? I suggest that when he visits Charlotte County he use some other approach than cutbacks in highway construction. For his own benefit he should refrain from this topic when he has the opportunity to speak to the people of Deer Island, Grand Manan and Campobello; when he speakes to the rural folk in St. Stephen, Bonny River, Woodstock Road area, in fact, in any area of Charlotte County because the people there are witnessing the greatest secondary road building program in their memory.

Mr. BISHOP: Hope they have a better memory than Louis has.

Hon. Mr. IRWIN: We on this side of the house are firmly convinced that there still remains some member of the opposition who, after a period of a year and a half, have not yet accepted the fact that the people of the province gave a decision in favor of the Liberal government in June 1960.

This was quite evident during a recent radio broadcast made by the former Provincial Secretary-Treasurer, as he was introduced as the Hon. D. D. Patterson and signed off with the same title.

Mr. CHALMERS: He couldn't get rid of it.

Mr. McINERNEY (St. J.) It wasn't his fault, he was introduced that way.

Hon. Mr. IRWIN: The president of the Progressive Conservative Association and member from York, during a recent television broadcast, used considerably more time than necessary in reference to my colleague, Hon. Andre Richard, Minister of Public Works, and myself. It was most gratifying to both of us to realize that we required so much attention but, in passing, I just pose the question to him.

Was the text prepared by the public relations department of his party in disrepute with the newspapers or was the text the product of a reorganized public relations office as recommended?

The Leader of the Opposition has1 criticized the efforts of this government to encourage the development of secondary industry and to assist in the expansion of existing industry.

He has, as usual, misrepresented the intentions of this government and used the questionable value of the public relations office of his party to make statements that seriously considered by anyone listening might seriously jeopardize this important development program.

He has inferred that the Department of Industry and Development unwisely have financed and assisted many industries and endeavors that would be frowned upon by banking houses or other lending institutions. May I remind him that there would be no necessity for this type of assistance if the banking and loaning institutions had as much faith in the future of the province as the members of the government on this side of the house and the majority of the people of the province have.

May I also remind the Leader of the Opposition that if the interests he represents were to free themselves from the lethargy that now encompasses them, there is a wonderful opportunity for them to share in the future economic development of this province.

May I remind the Leader of the Opposition his government made several serious mistakes in assessing and providing financial assistance to industries which later failed during his term of office. I ask him also, did his government consult then with the banking houses or other qualified lending institutions for their advice?

May I also bring to his attention a plank in the Liberal platform of 1960. It said, in effect, that there would be a concerted effort made by the Liberal Government to establish secondary industry and to assist in the expansion of existing industry.

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. IRWIN: I, as a member of this government, endorse this principle 100 per cent and further state that the majority of the people of this province also endorse the positive and sincere action of this government to date.

I want to make it very clear that the Department of Industry and Development is a vital part of our government, as it should have been in the past, but it lacked the direction and purpose it now has under our Liberal government.

Mr. CHALMERS: You just prove it!

Hon. Mr. IRWIN: Mr. Speaker, the outstanding feature of the performance given yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition was the effort to display the great fund of wisdom on any and every subject, with one glaring omission, that he is supposed to have acquired almost overnight.

The uninformed might be led to believe that he has been touched by a magic wand, making of him an authority and giving him intimate knowledge in all fields, ranging from mice, through poultry, to public houses.

Overnight he has ideas on every subject, except one, and is anything but conservative in giving advice and instruction. The extent of his transformation is indeed wonderful to behold.

He has put his colleague, the former Provincial Secretary-Treasurer, in the shade with his solutions to all problems of federal, provincial and municipal finance.

The former Minister of Health, whose advice had already been overridden in Conservative circles by his colleague the gyrating medicine man from York County, is now entirely superseded as an authority on hospital services.

Public Works is also now the field of authoritative knowledge for the Leader of the Opposition rather than for the former Minister of Public Works.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, this judge of men, this fount of knowledge, this repository of wisdom, this oracle and prophet, has been sprung upon us so suddenly that we in the province are breathless. We must be given a little time to fully comprehend the great transformation.

How useful such a man would have been to the former Conservative administration! It is almost a tragedy that they struggled along for eight long dreary years in the morass of their jumbled thinking, with their lack of ideas, when they could have used the great store of wisdom that apparently was available to them.

Or perhaps I might be bold enough to suggest that wisdom has been granted to the Leader of the

Opposition only since his government was so unceremoniously ejected from office by the electors. Once before in our recent past, another Opposition Leader came to New Brunswick and told us he had all the answers not only for our province, but the whole of Canada. He was full of ideas, panceas and potent medicines for the ills of the nation.

Mr. FAIRWEATHER: Like Pearson?

Hon. Mr. IRWIN: Oddly enough, the nation was well at that time, but has since fallen ill of recession, mass unemployment and economic stagnation, and the great cure-alls have gone into eclipse.

The reverse is true in New Brunswick. Our hon. friend had eight years in which to give effect to his ideas and to give our people the benefit of his wisdom. He kept his talent hidden under a bushel. But now, his knowledge is supreme. It is a shame that he wasted all those years.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned that our hon. friend had ideas and answers for all problems except one. He hid his face from the liquor problem and, in this respect, he ran true to form with the eight-year record of the former Conservative government of which he was a senior cabinet minister.

Many outstanding and leading New Brunswickers have given their views on this problem. They have faced up to their responsibility. They were looking to the Leader of the Opposition for even one inkling of his attitude. But nothing was forthcoming.

Mr. PATTERSON: Where are yours?

Hon. Mr. IRWIN: Mine will be presented with the Act.

There he sits — astride the fence. One foot hangs dry on one side and the other wet, but neither one touches any solid ground. Like a frightened deer, he is ready to spring in whatever direction might seem most advantageous to his political cause.

Mr. Speaker, he looks awkard a-stride the fence, and ridiculous in the eyes of the public.

The people of New Brunswick for years have demanded that the liquor problem be met and overcome in the public interest.

Under our predecessors it was ignored. The law was a mockery. Enforcement became impossible. Political expediency was the order of the day and the public good became a secondary consideration.

Mr. McCAIN: High level education!

Hon. Mr. IRWIN: Then Louis J. Robichaud became our party leader. He heard the voice of the people. In this, as in all other problems that face us, he showed courage, determination and forthright-ness. These, Sir, are the qualities of a great leader and a statesman.

As a consequence, we have had a comprehensive study of all aspects of the problem by a commission composed of outstanding and dedicated New Brunswickers. Their report and recommendations have been made public well in advance of this session, so that all may know the complex nature of the problem.

And now, the government will present proposed legislation for consideration by each and all of us.

Mr. Speaker, whatever the individual and separate views of our people concerning this problem and necessary solutions of it, I am confident that all will respect and admire our Premier, the Hon. Louis J. Robichaud, for his courage and determination in facing up to this long neglected problem that was breeding disrespect and contempt for the law in our province.

I sincerely wish that I could have said as much for the Leader of the Opposition and the former administration.

Mr. Speaker, the speech from the throne carried an extensive reference to the many activities of the Department of Labour, under the able guidance of my colleague, Hon. Kenneth Webber, in the field of labor-management relations.

The only evidence in the Hon. Leader's remarks of any interest in this field on the part of the hon.. member opposite was a six-line reference in which he sought glory and entirely unearned credit for himself in the settlement of a strike that was effected by the efficiency of our departmental officials.

Mr. McCAIN: Ministers or officials?

Hon. Mr. IRWIN: On that occasion the hon. member opposite made public utterances at a crucial stage of the negotiations in a manner that could have completely upset the careful and useful work of our conciliation staff.

Mr. FAIRWEATHER: What utter bunk!

Mr. CHALMERS: What high school kid wrote that?

Hon. Mr, IRWIN: I would urge him to use better judgment if such circumstances should arise again. There are times when even the most ardent seeker of political capital should consider the public good ahead of his own personal political ambitions.

Mr. CHALMERS: Try it!

Mr. PENDRIGH: Hear, hear! Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. IRWIN: Mr. Speaker, I find it annoying that our worthy opponent opposite should undertake to attack and discredit so many outstanding New Brunswickers.

He accuses this government of being "vindictive and partisan".

Mr. CHALMERS: You said it!

Hon. Mr. IRWIN: Let him review the record of his own government in this regard, particularly in Kings County, before he starts throwing stones from the front lawn of his own house.

I particularly resented his slighting references to the late Hon. C. D. Howe, whom I knew personally, and who was one of Canada's finest minds and most dedicated public representatives.

Mr. FAIRWEATHER: He was the most sensible.

Hon, Mr. IRWIN: The Leader of the Opposition adds nothing to his own stature by attacking a man so deserving of our respect and appreciation for the tremendous job he did in building our national economy and industrial might.

The hon. member also turned his attack upon the members of the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission as "persons qualified only by political allegiance".

Mr. CHALMERS: You said it!

Hon. Mr. IRWIN: Mr. Speaker, this was the most unkind and unwarranted remark in his whole diatribe.

I need not defend the members of that Commission; their experience and qualifications speak for themselves. But I will say that it is more representative of the people than under the former administration.

The coal industry is represented, as it never was under the Flemming government. And although the coal industry is now having serious market problems, created by the policy decisions of the former government to use oil in the new thermal plant at East Saint John, this present Commission, under the able chairmanship of Hon. Donald Harper, is proceeding with long term plans that will give assured markets to the coal industry.

This is the kind of reasonable consideration the industry sought and was unable to obtain from the government of hon. members opposite. And now they try their cheap deception to blame others for the results of their own misdeeds.

Mr. Speaker, one member of the Commission is Mr. H. C. Atkinson from my constituency of Charlotte. His experience and knowledge in the forest industries, in all phases of power development and production, in finance and many other fields is outstanding. This man alone has more experience and ability than the whole of the former Conservative Commission, including their chairman.

Mr. Speaker, the totally unfair and bitter nature of the hon. member's remarks in this regard are evident to all members of this house, in that they included Mr. W. S.

Anderson, a man who served his constituents in this Legislature for 26 consecutive years; a man whose experience and ability are recognized by all; a man who is respected by thousands of us from all areas of the province and of all political persuasions.

Mr. FAIRWEATHER: St. Laurent wouldn't have him.

Hon. Mr. IRWIN: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition and his supporters lowered themselves in public opinion last year by their bitter and personal attacks upon the Premier. This year they are spreading their venom in all directions.

Although they cannot sink much lower in public disrepute, I would urge them for their own sake to mend their ways before they cause their own extinction as a party in this province.

Mr. CHALMERS: You should read the Gleaner.

Hon. Mr. IRWIN: You weren't in when I referred to you, Doctor.

At this time in my remarks I wish to refer to several items with respect to the Department of Education, the department of which I have the honor to be minister.

Mr. FAIRWEATHER: You were over an hour getting down to business.

Hon. Mr. IRWIN: At the last session of this Legislature I mentioned several matters under study and I feel it only fair that I should advise all members of this house of progress made to date in making a number of important projects a reality, and to indicate our other aims and objectives.

You will recall I advised you that the Department of Education and education in general were growing concerns. I told you then that education costs were increasing and would continue to increase. I can tell you today that my statement then is equally true today.

Mr. AMES: What are you doing about it?

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD: Don't pay attention to that mole.

Hon. Mr. IRWIN: This statement would still be true if the Department of Education continued to maintain only the services now provided.

Mr. CHALMERS: Do you believe in sight reading?

Hon. Mr. IRWIN: Our school population is increasing rapidly, especially our high school population. We have almost 150,000 students enrolled in our public schools today and this number is increasing at the rate of approximately 5,000 per year.

In Gloucester County alone, 1,200 more students are enrolled this year than one year ago. Think what this means in the matter of providing additional classrooms, teachers, government grants to teachers, free texts, 10 per cent budget grants and other operating costs.

I feel no person in this province will disagree with me when I state that our future prosperity and economy are closely related to the system of education which we maintain in our schools and universities.

You know, as I do. that there is unemployment in New Brunswick even as there is unemployment in each and every other province in Canada. But do you know that facts and figures released by the unemployment Insurance Commission show that between 70 and 80 per cent of the unemployed have very low educational qualifications?

Do you also know that only a small percentage of the unemployed have high school education or better?

This is a challenge which is being faced. Lack of education and unemployment go hand in hand.

To correct this situation will require the wholehearted cooperation of all in all walks of life. We must take every opportunity to impress upon young people the absolute necessity of remaining in school to take full advantage of all education provided at the local level.

This is only one phase of our problem. There are with us in all parts of the province members of our labor force who must be trained or retrained to meet demands of a continually changing social order in a time of automation. But, more of this later,

I wish to emphasize the fact we have many well trained teachers who give their best, even beyond the normal call of duty, in the classrooms and in the community. However, the general public and teachers themselves feel the time has come, if it is not already past due, when our teachers must receive additional training before going out into the field to instruct our young people.

I also feel we have one of the best, if not the best, teacher training programs in Canada.

Our Teachers' College is a purely bilingual institution. Instruction is given in both languages. All student teachers are given instruction in then-native tongue by well qualified instructors and equal emphasis is placed on both French and English.

In fact, this year, for the first time in history, we have one class of English-speaking students in Teachers' College who are receiving the greater part of their instruction in the French language. This is an experiment which we have reason to believe will produce English-speaking teachers who will be capable of imparting instruction in both languages.

We have come to realize that this is a bilingual province and that young people, and older people too, have much to gain by close association with members of the other ethnic group.

You know as I do that we are living in perilous times. You must be amazed, as I am, to learn of areas on the North American Continent where dissension prevails, where children of different color, race or religion cannot be educated together.

New Brunswick has always been, and I hope always will be, an area where peace and harmony, cooperation and fair play will prevail and where our representatives of both races work together for the common good.

Communism thrives on discord, lack of unity, lack of understanding, lack of realization of the rights and privileges of others, and with favor towards none.

In the field of teacher training we have made great strides. We now have a two-year course for secondary teachers at Teachers' College, Lectures are given by members of the staff of Teachers' College and by professors at the University of New Brunswick.

Our students write the same examinations as are written at the university and upon graduation, when one additional course is completed, are granted Certificate II which is the equivalent of the completion of two years of university study. After two additional years of university study candidates are granted a B.A, degree. This new departure is most successful.

Our graduates of the two-year course in Home Economics, Commercial Education, Physical Education and Industrial Teacher Training are now accepted by our universities and upon completion of two additional years at university are granted degrees in this province. Previously these teachers had to leave the province for study in order to secure a recognized degree.

This has been possible through the cooperation of university personnel and is greatly appreciated. It is definite evidence that our teacher training program is a most efficient one and also proof that educationists at all levels are not tied to tradition, but recognize the fact that instruction must differ at all levels of teacher training and while the subject matter may not be the same it is equally difficult and important to that given in regular B.A. courses.

Our course for primary and intermediate teachers is still a one-year course. There is no way in which we can justify a two-year course of training for some teachers and only a one-year course for others. The time has come when all courses at Teachers' College must be a minimum of two years and we propose to start the two-year course in September 1962.

We have already met representatives of all universities in the province to discuss the question of recognition of credit for the work done during the first two years at Teachers' College and the suggested courses to be given by the universities for the next two years in order that candidates might receive a degree — Bachelor of Teaching or Bachelor of Elementary Education.

We have been pleased with the initial reaction of the universities and their realization that changes are necessary to meet the demands of a changing society and progressive education.

While courses are not yet finalized, we anticipate them to be somewhat as follows and along the lines discussed with our university people.

Proposed tentative program for a two-year course at Teachers' College which may lead to a Bachelor of Teaching or Bachelor of Elementary Education degree with the work of the last two years being done at a university in the province which will give the degree.

Continuing, he (Irwin) suggested supplying hon. members of the house and members of the press with a list of the courses given, rather than reading them all. The list was as follows:

Courses to be given during the two years at Teachers' College:

2 English

2 French

1 History — Canadian — Civics and Citizenship

1 Geography

1 Natural Science

1 Health and Physical Education

1 Mathematics — Content and Methods

1 Methods — School Law and Management

1 Methods — Second Language

2 Special Methods

1 Art and Music

1 Optional — second year of Art, Music or Phys. Ed.

1 Introduction to Educational Psychology — term, Guidance — Term

1 Reading

1 Practice Teaching Courses to be given at the university:

1 Psychology

1 Mathematics or History or Classics

2 Education

1 Chosen from Economics, Philosophy or Sociology

2 Science (2 courses in 1 science, or 1 course in each of 2 sciences)

1 English or French

3 Options from 3rd and 4th year Requirements for the degree:

(1) The two years at Teachers’ College will be a prerequisite.

(2) Candidates shall have a general average of at least 65 percent in the two years at Teachers' College.

(3) Credit during the last two years will be according to the

usual university standard.

He (Irwin) resumed:

The implementing of this course and continuance of others will eventually call for increased staff, increased physical plant and, of necessity, increased expenditures of public funds. It definitely means expansion of the present Teachers' College building or the erection of new buildings to house additional students.

To encourage more of our teachers and university graduates to enter the teaching profession and secure a Bachelor of Education Degree — the fifth year of study or one year in advance of B.A. or B. Sc. — loans have been made available to candidates taking the final year of this course.

The maximum amount of this loan is $600 which is to be repaid under certain conditions upon graduation and assuming employment.

These loans are available for students attending any university in the province where the university gives such a course.

In fact, I feel we shall shortly be in a position to state that conditions exist whereby all teachers may look forward to a degree in the field of their choice.

This may call for an upward revision in salary scales to teachers. It may also call for greater government participation in the costs of education. We cannot afford to be negligent in our responsibilities to education and to the municipalities which support education at the local level.

Since this house last met we have entered into a new technical and vocational education agreement with the federal government. By this agreement the federal government will pay to the province 50 or 75 per cent of the costs of buildings, equipment and operating costs of well defined programs.

This government, through my department, has taken advantage of this agreement and definite action has been taken to provide facilities for additional training.

The new Technical Institute in Moncton is now in operation and by the end of the school year we hope to 'have had 700 students in training in a great variety of courses. Announcement has already been made that technical trade schools will be erected in Bathurst and St. Andrews. The plans for these buildings are well advanced. Others will be built and an intensive study of locations and courses to be provided are receiving our present and careful study.

As a partial solution to the unemployment problem, a training program was organized in six centres throughout the province during the winter of 1960-61.

This type of training for unemployed persons is operated under the federal-provincial vocational and technical training agreement, with the federal Department of Labour contributing up to 75 per cent of the cost of training.

One hundred and sixty-five unemployed persons were placed in classes in carpentry, sheet metal, electricity, bricklaying, welding, auto body repairing, meat cutting and upgrading. One hundred and thirty-one completed training and the great majority found employment and, in many cases, increased their earning power.

Upgrading which consists of "Basic Training for Skill Development" was conducted at Bathurst and Edmundston for 30 young men whose educational standing was too low to enable them to take trade training. The interest shown and the effort put forth by these young people in this pilot program was excellent; a number were placed in trade training and the remainder will be trained during the winter of 1961-62.

It is planned to expand this upgrading training on a much larger scale during this winter. It is hoped to operate such classes in at least 12 to 15 centres if sufficient interested individuals apply.

A training program for unemployed persons is now operating at Bathurst and Saint John, with the following enrolments:

Bathurst Welding 20

Auto body repairing 12

Fredericton Handicrafts 3

Saint John Welding 24

Plating 41

Trainees in the Saint John classes are being employed by the Saint John Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co. Ltd., on completion of training. To date — and this is over and above the figures mentioned up above — 52 trainees from Saint John and 20 from Bathurst have been employed.

This present program embraces the training of 150 platers and 90 welders.

A greatly expanded program for the training of unemployed persons is planned for during the heavy unemployment period expected this winter.

The cooperation given the Department of Education by the National Employment Service and Department of Labour in connection with this training program has been outstanding.

raining in industry, Program IV, of the federal-provincial vocational and technical training agreement was set up during the summer and fall of 1961. The following programs are now operating with the costs of training divided between the employer and the provincial and federal governments:

Hamilton Cotton Ltd., Spinners 15

Marysville Weavers 9

Thomas Bonar Paper Co. Ltd.,

Barker's Point Machine operators 12

Sheer Silk Hosiery Ltd.,

Sussex Loopers 9

Perfection Shirt Co. Ltd.,

Edmundston Supervisors 25

International Pulp & Paper Co., Upgrading of

Dalhousie electricians 33

Atlantic Sugar Refinery Ltd, Retraining

workers 50

Two other training in industry programs are pending, one in Bathurst with a new shipbuilding industry and the other in Campbell-ton for the new plant of the Radio Engineering Products Ltd.

I mentioned earlier that unemployment exists. The sad part of it is that many are unemployed and that labor and industry are calling for trained individuals and none are available. We must meet our responsibilities in this respect. A complete survey of industry has been made; we are learning of the needs of industry and our efforts will be exerted towards training to meet these needs.

Our training program in cooperation with industry is progressing satisfactorily. Through this program industry provides tile space, equipment and persons to be trained; the Department of Education cooperates in the cost of the training program. This practical and successful program has been made possible only through the cooperation of industry and we anticipate that all training programs will be greatly expanded during the coming winter season.

In all our training programs we have found many cases where the academic standing of trainees is not sufficient to profit by training today. In these cases we have set up classes to advance the know-ledge in language and such mathematics and science as are necessary to the successful undertaking of a training program.

This is another proof that a high academic standing is essential to employment and success. To carry out this increased program it has been found necessary to enlarge our staff, but even now it is below that which (may be considered adequate.

The school building program has been greater than average, as indicated by the increase in school population. The School Building Planning Branch not only provides plans and specifications for smaller buildings, but examines with care the plans and specifications of ail buildings on which a government grant is paid.

This is necessary to ensure a minimum of recognized standards and at the same time to make certain that ratepayers are not paying for frills.

In addition, all schools must be inspected at regular intervals during construction. Even before final construction plans are completed a complete survey must be made of the area to determine the size and nature of the building. Our officials meet with boards of school trustees and ratepayers to assist in calling for tenders, establishing bus routes when applicable, and in the sale of bonds at the best possible rates.

We have recently established the position of municipal bond coordinator. The incumbent in this position not only advises on school bonds but also on municipal and hospital bonds. He works in close cooperation with other departments of government to arrange for a regulated issue of bonds so as to meet the market demands at the best price and to ensure the fact several large issues are not offered by sale at the same time.

We appreciate the cooperation given by all school and municipal authorities which has enabled us to make these debentures at acceptable rates, thus saving many hundreds of thousands of dollars to the ratepayers.

Over the past year we in the Department of Education have continually encouraged the union of smaller consolidations. These smaller consolidations, at the time of formation, were a decided improvement over former conditions, but it is now realized better work can be done by a union of consolidations, thus permitting the operation of a more varied high school program and the securing of well-qualified teachers in special subjects.

We are confident the acceptance of such a program would be more economical and result in higher standards of education.

Closely associated with construction of schools is the matter of curriculum. In fact, a good structure with a poor program is a failure. Continued study has been given and will be given to all phases of our program of studies.

We realize changes must be made to meet changing demands. We realize not all students will proceed to university; we realize not all students will graduate from high school; we realize not all students are capable of taking or profiting from a purely academic course.

We are endeavoring not only to revamp our programs now in existence but to develop terminal courses in high schools, with emphasis on practical subjects, in or-der that these young people who may go directly into trades or industry may go out well equipped in the subjects essential for success in their chosen lines of occupation.

In this program development, we have received the greatest of cooperation from our teachers and university professors.

When considering the question of education we are ever mindful of our adult population. The Adult Education and Fitness Branch has developed an extensive program in adult education while continuing to give expert leadership and advice to local groups in all areas of the province in their recreation, leadership, group study and community programs.

The demands for assistance are greater than our limited staff can accept, but progress has been notable. More young people and more adults than ever before are participating in physical exercises, recreational activities, study groups, music and drama. These not only develop bodies but minds and when young people are properly engaged under leadership they are not becoming juvenile delinquents.

During the past year more school students than ever before participated in competitive and non-competitive music festivals. The quality of performance has likewise improved.

The success of our program may be measured in terms of the honor and distinction brought to the province by our choirs and athletes who acquitted themselves so acceptably in national competitions.

Our work in the Legislative Library and Regional Library Services has kept pace with an increase in demands. We have lost the services of two efficient librarians, one in the Legislative Library and one in Central Library Services. In spite of these losses we have been sending out books at the rate of over 200 per day.

I may add the greatest demands are from the French-speaking areas. To maintain and increase circulation of books so well received in all areas must of necessity call for increased staff and increased expenditures of public money.

Our radio programs are well received and increased demands are made upon Audio-Visual Aids and the Correspondence School. We maintain our record as having the largest per capita participation of film circulation in Canada and our students in the Correspondence

School continue to prove their worth in departmental examinations.

In our School Book Branch we distribute approximately 300,000 free texts to school boards, and approximately 100,000 high school texts were sent out to dealers in all parts of the province.

I have endeavored to give you only a resume of the work of all departments and to indicate the fact that the Department of Education is a growing concern. Our activities are unending and increasing monthly. Our staff is far from adequate in numbers and demands are greater than can be accepted.

For instance, we have begun a complete revision of the Schools Act and regulations.

This will call for increased time and effort and hours of concentrated work even beyond the call of duty. I mention these matters only to indicate that there can be no retrenchment in either services or expenditures.

This government realizes as never before that our system of payment of grants to municipalities for education is far from fair or adequate. In cooperation with the Department of Municipal Affairs we are actively engaged in a far-reaching program to establish a uniform valuation throughout the province to determine ability to pay for educational services and a basis on which to pay equitable and increased education grants to all municipalities.

In closing these remarks on education, I appeal to all members of this house to forget our political differences and stand united in determination to promote the cause of education at all levels and in all areas.

It is only by such united action that we can ensure for ourselves and posterity a system of education that will meet the demands of society and, at the same time, a bulwark of defence against those potent forces which seek to, but never can, control the minds of men in opposition to freedom, personal initiative and united effort in the interests of the society which has done so much for us and which we seek to perpetuate.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.