

IV.—EDUCATION.

General Features of Canadian Education System.—Under the British North America Act, 1867, the right to legislate on matters respecting education was exclusively reserved to the provincial legislatures, subject to the maintenance of the rights and privileges of the denominational and separate schools as existing at the time of union or admission of provinces. In general there are two fundamental systems of education throughout Canada, one that of the Protestant communities, free from the control of religious bodies, and the other that of the Roman Catholic French and Irish communities in which education is united with the religious teaching of the Roman Catholic Church. In Ontario, Roman Catholics have the right to form what are known as "Separate Schools" for elementary education, the local rates for the support of these schools being separately levied and applied. In Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta similar provisions apply.

In all the provinces the cost of education is defrayed from the public revenues, provincial and local, and public elementary education is free to parents or guardians, except for certain small fees which are payable in parts of the province of Quebec. With the exception of Quebec all the provinces have laws of compulsory education, but under conditions that differ as between one province and another. In general the provincial laws provide for uniformity in the training of teachers, the use of text books and the grading of pupils. Secondary schools or departments, and colleges or universities for higher education, exist under government control in all the provinces, and the three classes of teaching institutions are more or less co-ordinated to allow of natural transition from the lower to the higher. School terms and holidays are arranged to suit climatic and other local conditions; so that it is frequently possible for students to work their own way through college and the university. Arrangements for the superannuation of teachers are applied in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario.

Recent movements in the direction of nature study, manual instruction, school gardens, agriculture, domestic science and technical education are all energetically in progress, and in the more progressive provinces the higher education of women is an important feature of university life.

A more detailed description of the Canadian system of public education, as organized in each province, was published in the Year Book of 1914, pages 94 to 116.

Education Statistics of Canada.—There being at present no effective co-ordination of education statistics it is difficult to construct comparative tables for Canada. In the first place, the year to which the statistics relate differs according to province. Thus the school year ended June 30 is adopted for statistical purposes by Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia; the education year for Nova Scotia ends on July 31; and the calendar year ended December 31 is selected by Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta. In the tables numbered 1 to 5 an attempt is, however, made