

GENERAL FEATURES OF CANADIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM.

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, Protestants and coloured people have each the right to establish "Separate Schools" for elementary education, the local rates for the support of these schools being separately levied and applied. In Quebec, the religious minority in any municipality, whether Roman Catholic or Protestant (the Jews being "Protestants" for all the purposes of the School Law), may dissent and maintain its own elementary and model schools and academies or high schools, the taxation of the minority being separate from that of the majority for the three classes of school. That is to say, the separate system is complete. In Saskatchewan and Alberta a separate school may be established by the minority, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, subject, however, to identical regulations as to courses, certificates, inspection, etc. In the remaining provinces there are special provisions for the education of Roman Catholics in the larger cities and towns.

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. As a rule, 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; and it is frequently possible for students to work their own way through college and the university. Arrangements for the superannuation of teachers as hereinafter described, 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.

PROVINCIAL POWERS UNDER THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT.

The powers of the provincial legislatures respecting education are laid down in Section 93 of the British North America Act, 1867, as follows:

93. In and for each province the legislature may exclusively make laws in relation to education, subject and according to the following provisions:

(1) Nothing in any such law shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to denominational schools which any class of persons have by law in the province at the union.

(2) All the powers, privileges and duties at the union by law conferred and imposed in Upper Canada on the separate schools and school trustees of