

EDUCATION

In Saskatchewan and in Alberta the local board of trustees has the power to prescribe the religious instruction that shall be given, but this instruction may only be given during the half-hour preceding the close of the school in the afternoon, except that the board may direct that the school be opened by the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

In British Columbia the public schools are conducted on strictly secular and non-sectarian principles. The school law provides that "the highest morality shall be inculcated, but no religious dogma or creed shall be taught." The Lord's Prayer may be used in opening or closing school.

Separate School System in Ontario.—The public schools law of Ontario provides for the establishment as may be required of separate schools (a) for Roman Catholics, (b) for Protestants, and (c) for coloured people, the whole being governed by the Separate Schools Act of the Ontario Legislature. For Roman Catholics the Act provides that not less than five Roman Catholic heads of families resident within any public school section may convene a public meeting for the establishment of a separate school, trustees being elected by the meeting for their management. On declaring their intention to support the separate school, Roman Catholic ratepayers are relieved of the obligation to contribute to the ordinary public schools, and, instead, are rated for the support of the separate school. The separate school shares in legislative grants received from the central authority, and provided for by the Provincial Legislature. The schools are managed by the boards of trustees, two from every ward in cities and towns and six in every village. Under the management of the board of trustees the children of the schools receive distinctive religious training according to the tenets of the Roman Catholic Church; but in matters of secular education the schools are subject to the ordinary school law under the administration of the Department of Education of the Provincial Government, and the teachers, who are of the Roman Catholic faith, are subject to the same examinations and receive their certificates of qualification in the same manner as the ordinary public school teachers. Protestant separate schools may only be established in school sections where the teacher is a Roman Catholic.

Separate School System in Quebec.—In Quebec, separate schools are an important integral part of the system of public education, which in its application is adapted to the peculiar conditions of the French-speaking province of the Dominion. Whilst the French Roman Catholic element largely predominates, there is in most of the populous centres a strong Protestant minority, and in certain parts, like the Eastern Townships, the Protestants are frequently the local majority. In practice, the main public schools of a locality are either Roman Catholic or Protestant, according to the religion of the majority. The minority, Roman Catholic or Protestant as the case may be, have then the right to dissent and to form a board of trustees, managed under generally the same conditions as the schools of the majority. The chief difference between the majority, or commissioners' schools, and the minority, or trustees' schools, is that the commissioners are five in number whilst the trustees are not more than three. Whereas in