

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION IN CANADA.

first Monday in March before the fishermen go to sea—the board of three school trustees presents its report for the past year and its estimates for the next year to the ratepayers for their decision. The senior trustee retires, and his successor is elected for three years. The Board has full control of all school affairs, subject to the conditions fixed by law and to the oversight of the inspector. In towns, the school board consists of three members of the town council and two members appointed by the Government. In Halifax six commissioners are appointed by the City Council and six are appointed by the Provincial Government. The school year technically begins on August 1, in the middle of the summer vacation. The teaching term opens at the end of August and closes at the end of June. There are two weeks of vacation at Christmas. The operation, in each section, of legal provisions as to compulsory attendance is dependent upon their adoption by a vote of the ratepayers, except in cities and towns, where no option is allowed. Subject to certain exemptions, compulsory attendance is general for children from 6 to 16 in the cities and towns and from 7 to 12 in the country.

Sources of Income.—The school revenue is derived from (1) the local or sectional assessment voted at the annual meeting; (2) the municipal school fund amounting to 35 cents per capita of each rural municipality (of which there are 24), but levied on the real and personal property; and (3) the provincial aid to teachers. The municipal school fund is distributed to school boards as follows: \$25 for each teacher employed, and the balance, about an equal aggregate, according to the attendance of pupils. The law allows municipalities to raise a larger fund; three counties have now a fund based on 50 cents per capita, and grant \$50 for each teacher employed. The provincial aid is paid to the teacher in proportion to the class of license held. Class D (third class) receive \$60 per annum; Class C (second class) \$90; Class B (first class) \$120; Class A (superior first class) \$150; and Class "Academic," whose scholarship must henceforward be of university graduate grade, \$180 or \$210, according to position.

School Grades.—The public school programme forms a single system from grade I to grade XII, each grade covering the average annual work of a pupil. The first eight are also known as the "common school," and the remaining four as the "high school" grades. In 1916 there were 2,837 schoolrooms in operation. Of these, 1,659 were schools with only one teacher, and 1,083 were giving instruction to a few pupils of high school grade in addition to the common school instruction. Four hundred and fifty-three graded schools gave some high school instruction in addition to the common school work. There were only 64 pure high school systems in operation. There were in the same year (1916), 99,463 pupils in the common school grades—of whom 5,941 presented themselves at the provincial terminal examinations for "pass" certificates of one of the four high school grades—and 9,726 in the high school grades.

Teachers.—There are five classes of teachers for the regular (academic) school system, namely: Third (or D), Second (or C), First (or B), Superior First (or A), and the Academic. The general scholarship basis of each is respectively as follows: Provincial high school pass