

EDUCATION

other provinces. It has its roots in the religious organization of the Roman Catholic Church and dates from the French régime (1608 to 1759). Prior to Confederation important laws were passed in 1836, when the first steps were taken towards division of the province into school municipalities; in 1841, when a Department of Education was established; and in 1846, when an Act was passed which is the basis of the existing school law of the province. At present the school organization of Quebec is under the control of a Department of Public Instruction, presided over by a Superintendent of Public Instruction. Where the duties of this officer are not specifically defined by law he receives directions from the government through the Provincial Secretary. There is no special Minister of Education for the province. The Council of Public Instruction is composed of all the Roman Catholic Bishops, or Vicars Apostolic, whose dioceses or parts of whose dioceses are in the province of Quebec, now numbering sixteen, an equal number of Roman Catholic laymen appointed by the Crown and an equal number of Protestants similarly appointed.

Roman Catholic and Protestant Committees.—The Council is divided into two Committees, one composed of the Roman Catholic and the other of the Protestant members. The Roman Catholic Committee has, in addition to the full members of the Council, four associate members, two being priests, principals of normal schools, and two being laymen, officers of public instruction. The Protestant Committee has five associate members elected by the Committee, and one member annually elected by the Protestant Teachers' Provincial Association. The associate members of the Protestant Committee have the same powers as the other members of the Committee, but do not form part of the Council of Public Instruction. School questions in which the interests of Roman Catholics and Protestants are collectively concerned are decided by the whole Council; but ordinarily the Committees meet separately and have independent and final jurisdiction over schools of their own faith. Each Committee makes regulations subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council (1) for the organization, administration and discipline of public schools; (2) for division of the province into inspection districts; (3) for normal schools; (4) for boards of examiners; (5) for the examination of candidates for school inspector; (6) for the school holidays. The Superintendent is assisted by a staff of fifty-two inspectors under two Inspectors-General, one for the Roman Catholic schools and one for the Protestant schools.

School Municipalities.—The basis of the school organization is the school municipality which is established solely for education purposes. Except in the cities the school municipalities are created by the Lieutenant-Governor on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Board of School Commissioners.—The local authority in each school municipality is vested in a board of five school commissioners elected by the ratepayers to serve for three years. The board is responsible for the erection, equipment and maintenance of schools, the administration of the school property and the fixing of the school assessment and monthly dues from the parents. Its annual report to the Superinten-