

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION IN CANADA.

dent of Public Instruction includes a census of the children from five to eighteen years of age, the rate of the yearly assessment and monthly fee and the amount collected. In the cities of Montreal and Quebec the boards are not elected but are appointed, and in Montreal the rate of taxation is fixed by provincial statute.

Sources of Income.—The financial resources of the school municipalities comprise (1) the sums raised by local rates and (2) grants made by the Legislature. The former consist of the school assessment, which is levied on all rateable property of a school municipality, and the monthly fee, which may be collected for every child who attends or who should attend the public schools. The grant of the Legislature is divided proportionally to the number of the children enrolled.

Elementary Schools.—The primary or elementary schools are classified as either Roman Catholic or Protestant, which is usually equivalent to a classification as French and English respectively, both as to race and language. The Irish Roman Catholics are usually classified among the Roman Catholics without distinction as to language. School attendance is not compulsory. The school age is generally understood to be from seven to fourteen years, but children have the right to enter at five years of age and continue until they are eighteen. Before attaining this latter age they have either completed their education or have entered the intermediate or the secondary schools. In the city of Montreal, elementary education is free to the Protestant and Jewish children in the schools of the Protestant commissioners. In nearly all other elementary schools in the province fees are charged at a rate which cannot exceed fifty cents a month nor be less than five cents, but school boards may by resolution abolish the monthly fee. The average monthly fee is about twenty-five cents. It is payable for each child from seven to fourteen whether attending school or not. School fees cannot, however, be exacted from indigent persons, nor for insane, deaf, dumb or blind children, nor for children absent on account of prolonged illness or attending schools elsewhere. The fee is rather a poll tax than a fee. It is collected by the treasurer of the school board, generally together with the ordinary tax on real estate. In no case is a teacher allowed to receive it from the pupils, and the law provides that no child from seven to fourteen may be excluded from school for non-payment of monthly fees.

Secondary Education.—As a general rule secondary education is under the same board of commissioners as that which controls the elementary or primary schools. The secondary schools comprise model or intermediate primary schools and academies or higher primary schools. In the primary elementary schools there are four grades, in the primary intermediate or model two, and in the higher primary or academic two. The course of study is a continuous one for the three classes of schools. The Roman Catholic secondary schools, provided by the ordinary school boards, are either maintained by taxation, fees and government grants, or they are "independent," being supported by fees, government grants and in some cases subsidies from school boards. They are subject to government inspection, are required to follow the authorized course of study and to observe the regulations of the Roman Catholic Committee.