

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION IN CANADA

Superannuation of Teachers.—Pensions are paid from a fund, maintained partly by contribution from the Government and local authorities and partly by stoppages from the salaries of teachers. All teachers, excepting those in holy orders and nuns, must contribute annually two p.c. of their salaries, whether wishing to participate in the benefits or not. Teachers without certificates must contribute, but receive no pensions till they have taken certificates. A male teacher may contribute three p.c. of his salary, and his widow will receive a half pension. A teacher may receive a pension after teaching for twenty years and reaching the age of fifty-six, or after making twenty contributions to the fund if retiring on account of ill-health. A teacher retiring because of ill-health, after teaching more than ten but less than twenty years, may withdraw all payments without interest; a teacher who has served less than ten years forfeits all payments. The pension for a man is as many fiftieths of his average salary as the number of years that he has served. A woman receives the same pension increased by a half, but not more than 90 p.c. of her salary. The maximum in either case is \$1,050 per annum.

ONTARIO.

General Organization.—In Ontario, education is under the control of a Department of Education, conducted by virtue of the Department of Education Act, passed by the Ontario Legislative Assembly. The Department is presided over by a Minister of Education as its political head. A Deputy Minister of Education acts as permanent administrative chief, and a Superintendent of Education has the general supervision and direction of schools, teachers' examinations and school inspectors. Under the control of the Department are public elementary schools (including kindergartens), continuation schools, night schools, high schools, collegiate institutes, art schools, model schools, normal schools, teachers' institutes, libraries, technical and industrial schools. As now organized, the Ontario system of education may fairly be described as an organic whole, elementary, secondary and higher education being duly co-ordinated.

Elementary Education.—Elementary education in Ontario owes its main features to the late Rev. Dr. Egerton Ryerson, who, appointed Chief Superintendent of Education in 1844, held this office for thirty-two years. From the Common Schools Act of 1846 his term of administration included a successive series of Education Acts culminating in the Ontario School Law of 1871 which gave effect to the following principles: (1) free tuition; (2) compulsory education of children of school age; (3) county inspection and (4) uniform examinations for promotion to the high schools. Under the existing law, and especially the Public Schools Act, elementary education is provided for in Public Schools, and in what are known as "Separate Schools" for the children of Roman Catholics. Both of these classes of schools are controlled by boards of trustees. In rural districts the townships are divided into school sections, and the trustees, three in number, hold office for three years, one going out of office annually, when his successor is elected.