

XI.—EDUCATION.

Throughout the Dominion of Canada public education is a matter of provincial concern. Before Confederation, the maritime colonies were separated from Ontario by French-speaking Quebec, and in each of these an educational system specially adapted to the local conditions had come into existence. When Confederation was under consideration, the protection of existing vested rights was the predominant consideration. As a result, section 93 of the British North America Act, which embodies the Canadian constitution in so far as that constitution is a written one, provides that in and for each province the Legislature may exclusively make laws in respect of education, except that "nothing in any such law shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to denominational schools which any class of persons have by law in the province at the union".

Inasmuch as the administration of public education is one of the chief functions of Provincial Governments, there is in each of the provinces, except Quebec, a Department of Education administered either by a member of the Provincial Executive Council or by the Executive Council as a whole. In practice, however, the routine administration is in the hands of the permanent officials of the Department of Education, who are members of the permanent civil service. In Quebec, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, appointed by the Government, is *ex-officio* President of the Council of Public Instruction; the link between the Department of Public Instruction and the Government is the Provincial Secretary; there are also two deputy heads, called the French and English Secretaries of the Department.

Since the Departments of Education are permanent authorities, controlled as to the details of administration by permanent officials, educational policy is relatively permanent; further, the control of the Governments over education throughout the provinces is relatively stronger than in the United States. A capable Deputy Minister or Superintendent of Education impresses his personality and his views upon the whole system of his province, especially as in practice he controls the payment of Government grants, which constitute an important part of the revenues applied to educational purposes. (In 1925, out of a total expenditure on public general education in Canada amounting to \$121,034,234, \$18,042,506 came from the Provincial Governments.)

The Department of Education in each province naturally has its headquarters at the capital of the province. Its local representatives are the school inspectors, who, in all provinces except Ontario, are appointed and paid by the Government; in Ontario high and separate school inspectors are appointed and paid by the Government, while public school inspectors, except in the unorganized districts, are appointed by the county or city municipality from among the persons recognized by the Department of Education as qualified for such appointment, and after appointment receive a part of their salary from the municipality and a part from the province.

Education in Quebec.—In Quebec there are two distinct systems of education in each of which the teaching of religion takes a prominent position—the Protestant and the Roman Catholic systems. In the former, which is under the control of the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction, with an English Secretary, the curriculum and the general system of education is similar to that in the other provinces, except that the highest grade is Grade XI, from which students are matriculated to McGill University and Bishop's College, the two Protestant English-speaking universities of the province.