

## CHAPTER XXV.—EDUCATION.

### Section I.—Public School and Higher Education.<sup>1</sup>

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 Education, 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 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

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<sup>1</sup> Revised by M. C. MacLean, M.A., F.S.S., Chief, Education Statistics Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This Branch is concerned with compiling and publishing comparable data relating to schools and colleges, both public and private, throughout Canada, and to this end co-operates with the Provincial Departments of Education. A list of the publications of this Branch will be found in Chapter XXVIII, Section 1, under "Education".