

CHAPTER XXV.—EDUCATION.

Section 1.—Schools, Colleges and Universities.*

The British North America Act assigned public education in Canada, except in the case of the native Indian population, to the jurisdiction of the Provincial Governments. A system of public elementary and secondary education, financed mainly by local school authorities but assisted by provincial grants, has developed in each province. There are some private schools in all provinces (*i.e.*, schools that are not conducted by publicly-elected or publicly-appointed boards, and which are not financed out of public money), but their enrolment is not large in comparison with that of the public schools. At the level of higher education six provinces have each a provincially-supported university, and the remaining three have each one or more colleges supported out of provincial funds, but in most of them there are considerable numbers of students in private, endowed or denominational colleges.

Table 1 of this Chapter gives statistics of enrolment in these different categories of educational institutions: (1) Provincially-Controlled Schools; (2) Privately-Controlled Schools; (3) Dominion Indian Schools; (4) Universities and Colleges. This table corresponds to Table 1 of this chapter as it has appeared in previous Year Books, except that part 'C' of such earlier tables is now omitted. It is followed by subsections treating each of the four groups separately, except Indian Schools, for which data are given in Chapter XXVIII, Miscellaneous Administration, along with other information on Indian Affairs.

Financial Trends.—Chapter I of the Biennial Survey of Education in the United States, published in 1937 by the Office of Education, shows that expenditure for schools and colleges dropped almost exactly 30 p.c. between 1930 and 1934; the comparable drop in Canada was less than 25 p.c. Since 1934 there has been little change in the amount spent for Canadian education; the annual sum has been approximately equal to that of 1926 when the average daily attendance of pupils was about 17 p.c. less. Expenditures by provinces for 1936, or the latest year available, are given in Table 1.

A comparison in dollars can hardly be taken at face value, but it may be of interest to note that the yearly cost of schools and colleges in the United States, after the drop of depression years, is calculated at \$30·51 for each adult in the population; in Canada the comparable figure is about \$22. School and college debt in Canada is about \$45 per adult in the population. It has been reduced somewhat since 1934, but is still around 25 p.c. higher than in 1926.

Rural vs. Urban.—The loss of one-fifth or one-fourth of school revenues would not have been so hard for educational institutions to bear, had it been more evenly distributed among them. A disproportionate share of the loss was generally suffered by rural schools. Complete financial statements are not to be had for rural and

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