

CHAPTER XXV.—EDUCATION* AND RESEARCH.

CONSPECTUS.

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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 that 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 each have a provincially supported university, and the remaining three each have one or more colleges supported out of provincial funds.

Table 2 of this Chapter gives statistics of enrolment in four different categories of educational institutions including Dominion Indian schools. Indian schools are treated more fully in Chapter XXVIII, Miscellaneous Administration, along with other information on Indian Affairs.

School Attendance in Relation to Educational Status of the Entire Population.†—School attendance data, collected annually, do not give the number of persons of school age who are not at school. Even the number of persons who, at a fixed date, report themselves as having been at school is not necessarily the same as the number of persons who attended school during the year. In a rapidly moving population the difference may be considerable. Much less do annual figures show the penetration of schooling into the population structure as a whole. In this respect a study of census data must be depended upon.

Educational Status of the 1931 Population.—In considering the educational status of those now living in Canada, not only present school attendance but school attendance as far back as 1861 must be considered, since the ages at which schooling took place may have been anywhere between 5 and 19 years for persons now 75 years of age or over. Unfortunately, records of school attendance are not available for 1861 or 1891. From figures of other censuses, data are interpolated in Table 1 so as to show the numbers of the present population who were of school age at each of those dates and an approximation of the educational status of the 1931 population is thus obtained, in spite of the fact that the figures are qualified by the several factors brought out in the footnotes to the table.

* Revised, except for those parts otherwise indicated, by J. E. Robbins, M.A., Ph.D., Chief, Education Statistics Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This Branch is concerned with compiling and publishing comparable data relating to educational institutions 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 XXIX, Section 1, under "Education".

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