

# CHAPTER XXIV.—EDUCATION AND RESEARCH\*

## CONSPECTUS

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## RECENT ADVANCES IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION IN CANADA

The present war has brought to a climax a conflict between democratic and totalitarian systems of political control. It is the responsibility of democracy to meet that challenge and to provide a system of education that will give to the individual a concept of his responsibility as a citizen, in the successful functioning of representative government. Canadian educational authorities and teachers have already combined forces to meet this challenge. For the past several years, leaders in educational development in Canada have made constructive efforts to revise and revitalize Canadian educational policies.

Previous to the twentieth century there were only two organizations, of Dominion-wide scope, for educationists; in the two decades since the War of 1914-18, more than a dozen have come into existence, each, in its own way, assisting in bringing about a broader national outlook in matters of education. A description at p. 983 of the 1938 Year Book, lists some of the larger organizations that have collaborated in an effort to establish such a point of view and have provided media for exchange of aims and purposes and discussion of ways and means. The Canadian Council of Education for Citizenship, established in November, 1940, has as its objective a joint effort on the part of provincial educational authorities and teachers to formulate a program of activities and studies for use within Canadian schools, that will teach the true significance of democratic citizenship to Canadian youth.

The following pages contain a brief description of recent changes in Canadian educational policies. Although these changes were inaugurated by separate authorities, their similarity of design and purpose is unmistakable.

### Elementary, Secondary and Higher Education

**Decentralization of Administrative Control.**—The constitution of Canada provides that the Provincial Governments shall have autonomous control over formal education. The Dominion has certain responsibilities in the protection of the rights of minority groups and provides for: separate schools for the preservation of their religious and cultural traditions, the general education of the native Indians, and the education of the population outside of provincial boundaries.

\* Prefaced or 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 XXVIII, Section 1, under 'Education'.