

National organizations collaborate with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in planning programs of education in international affairs, public welfare, cultural arts, science and economics.

Educational Service for National Defence Forces.—At the outbreak of war in 1939 the Canadian Legion requested, from the Department of National Defence, authority to provide educational and recreational services for the Defence Forces. The specific objectives were threefold, viz.: to provide the men of the Forces with the higher academic and technical qualifications required for modern mechanized warfare; to maintain the morale of the members of the Forces during periods of inactivity by providing constructive study and recreational activities; to provide long-range preparation for demobilization and re-establishment in civilian life.

A precise mandate was given the Legion to provide such educational services, in co-operation with the Canadian Association for Adult Education; the Canadian Legion Educational Services became the official channel through which additional educational groundwork was provided for the Navy, the Army and the Air Force.

Administrative headquarters were established at Ottawa in close relationship with Defence authorities, and activities were grouped under five headings: administration, field services, correspondence courses, library services, and other instructional and experimental projects.

Provincial educational authorities were approached with a view to obtaining their endorsement of the projected scheme; they were asked to design a course of studies that would incorporate the educational standards of the nine provinces and Newfoundland and be accepted by all, on the basis of formal school credit. After due consideration of the scheme and evaluation of the curricula, the provinces gave their approval, offered full co-operation and assistance and granted formal credit to the proposed courses.

Field Services.—Educational organizers were appointed for each military district in Canada and provision made for overseas services. These organizers have university education, or its equivalent, with high-school-teacher training and experience, where possible. The Department of National Defence has co-operated by providing educational officers from commissioned officers of units in both Canada and Great Britain to assist in the organization of field services. The activities of these officers include registration of students, individual tests and appraisal of the student's educational status, organization of classes and actual instruction.

Correspondence Courses.—A service man must register for correspondence courses through the officer commanding his district who may grant permission to undertake the courses if, in his opinion, the man will continue them. Approved applications are forwarded to headquarters and the student is mailed instructions, textbooks and the name of his correspondence instructor. Regardless of his location, the student mails his completed courses direct to his assigned correspondence instructor. Term tests supervised by the field educational officer are likewise mailed to the correspondence instructor. On satisfactory completion of a year's credit in the subject, a certified record is entered in the student's permanent military record at National Defence Headquarters.

Enrolment in these courses for the men stationed in Canada now exceeds 18,000. About 53 p.c. of the enrolled students have registered for technical courses. Automotive engineering and principles of radio have the largest enrolment in technical subjects; mathematics leads in academic courses. This distribution is an indication of the higher educational standards required by the Defence Forces.