

CHAPTER XXVII.—EDUCATION AND RESEARCH*

CONSPECTUS

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The field of public education in Canada is assigned to the provinces by the British North America Act, although schools for the education of the native Indian population (who are wards of the Dominion Government) are administered by the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa. Such schools, however, are the only educational institutions maintained by the Dominion Government, except that certain aspects of the education of returned veterans are a responsibility of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The special work being done by the Dominion Government in connection with the Armed Services is not of a permanent nature, although it has been very important during the war years and will play a significant part in the rehabilitation of the personnel back into civilian life.

Special Work in Connection with the Armed Forces.—During the war years particularly, there has been a good deal of educational activity, formal as well as informal, which is not recorded in this Chapter. Reference to work under the War Emergency Training Program is made in the Labour Chapter at pp. 775-777. Technical training within the Armed Services is additional to this again. The technical training of a Navy personnel of more than 96,000, an Army personnel of more than 650,000 and an Air Force personnel of more than 220,000, has been in reality an educational enterprise of great proportions. Educational work in the Services has not been only technical in character; provision was made for general education in the Navy by the establishment of a Department of Naval Education in 1941, in the Air Force by an Education Section established in 1942, and by a Directorate of Army Education in 1943. These, in effect, supplemented and extended work carried on by the Canadian Legion Educational Services from the early months of the War.

The typical education officer in the Services is a university graduate with teaching experience in secondary schools. Duties vary somewhat between the Services, but include in all cases the organization of discussion groups and some responsibility for making educational books available. Through the medium of Canadian Legion Educational Services, it is possible for the education officer to direct the men of his unit to correspondence courses at all levels from the most elementary to university graduation. Provincial Departments of Education and universities in all parts of the country have co-operated to make this possible.

* Prepared 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 XXX, under "Education".