

(CONTINUED FROM CHART)

that are quite as varied as those offered at the more numerous specialized Secondary Schools in Quebec Province. It is often said that in the schools of the English-speaking provinces the accent is placed on pure science, applied science and technology, whereas in Quebec the classical side of education is emphasized. It is nearer the truth perhaps to say that students in the English-speaking provinces show a marked preference for social and scientific subjects, whereas in French-speaking Quebec the preference is definitely to classical studies. The apparent simplicity of the English-language chart is due largely to the fact that the Secondary High Schools and Collegiates are organized and grouped along standard lines, whereas in the French-language System, it is customary to house specialized courses in separate and independent schools.

At the elementary level there are normally eight grades in the English-language System. The compulsory age limits for attendance at school vary somewhat from province to province (as indicated in the bar diagram at the sides of the text) but the average period is from seven to fourteen years (to sixteen in Ontario). The curricula are based on standard programs of study drawn up by the various Provincial Departments of Education. Since the Departments of Education are administered by permanent officials, educational policy is also relatively permanent. A capable Deputy Minister or Superintendent of Education can, and often does, impress his personality upon the Provincial System and, of course, under his Minister's direction, administers the payment of government grants for education.

From Grade VIII of the Public Elementary Schools, which is the 'entrance grade', pupils, provided they are not under the compulsory age limit, either graduate into the High Schools or are enlisted into the lower levels of employment in trade and industry. The pupil who advances to High School is now granted a certain latitude in the choice of his courses of study. A particular aptitude may be expressed in the pursuit of technological studies by a male student or a domestic-science course by a female as the basis of his or her life work. The Secondary field of education may extend over any period up to five years: on the other hand, a student may pass from High School into trade and industry at any time during this period, provided he or she is over the compulsory age limit.¹

Education at the highest level is voluntary and specialized and includes all branches of Arts, Commerce, Science, Philosophy, Medicine, Theology, etc. The average period of study before graduation with a first degree (B.A., B.Sc., etc.) is four years, although for Medicine or Theology this period may extend to six or seven years. Post-graduate courses leading to a 'master' degree or a 'doctorate' may take another three or four years.

The English-Language Schools of Quebec Province.—The Roman Catholic English-language schools are under the control of a Roman Catholic Committee of the Council of Education and the curricula follow the general lines of the French Roman Catholic System (see under following heading). The Protestant English-language schools are controlled by a Protestant Committee of the Council of Education. Here the curricula and the general system of education correspond closely to those in the other provinces, except that instead of distinctive High Schools, there are eleven grades. Outside the larger cities all the grades are included in the same building, the four highest being known as High School Grades. From Grade XI

pupils who select the required subjects and obtain the necessary standing in the High School examinations are admitted to McGill or Bishop's College. The compulsory school age is six to the end of the school year in which the child becomes fourteen as in all Quebec schools—English- or French-language—Roman Catholic or Protestant.

The French Roman Catholic School System of Quebec Province.—This is characterized by unique differences which can be traced back to the early history of French Canada. These have persisted in the Roman Catholic School System because they have proved to be particularly suited to the French Canadian temperament and outlook on life. For instance, in the French Roman Catholic Schools the general practice is to keep the education of the sexes separate. From an early age boys follow different programs of studies than those laid down for girls although each program is sufficiently varied to cover all needs. Girls leaving the Primary Intermediate Schools, for instance, may enter the Primary Superior Schools for Girls, or the Girls' Normal Schools, or Regional Household Science Schools. Boys on the other hand may select the Technical Schools, or the Boys' Primary Superior Schools which lead to higher courses of study in the Commercial, Normal, Applied Science and Polytechnical Schools. These Schools give a course equivalent to those of the High Schools and Collegiates of the other Provinces, except for classical studies which are given exclusively in the independent *Collèges Classiques*.

Administration is in the hands of the Department of Education and of the Roman Catholic Committee of the Council of Education. General elementary education is provided by means of a curriculum extending over a preparatory course of seven grades. There is a complementary course of two years study at Primary Intermediate Schools for students who intend to advance to the Technical Schools or through the Primary Superior Schools to Commercial Studies, Schools of Applied Science or Polytechnical and Fine Arts Institutions. A noteworthy distinction in the French-language System as compared with the English-language System is the Normal School training for students who intend to make teaching in the Primary and Secondary fields their life work. In the French-language System, Normal School training extends over a very much longer period than it does in the other Provinces and as already noted Boys' Normal Schools and Girls' Normal Schools are separate institutions. Whereas girls enter normal school training from the Primary Intermediate Schools and take a four-year course, the boys commence normal school training after two years work in the Primary Superior Schools.

A special feature of the French-language System is the *Collèges Classiques*. These feature studies along old-established classical lines. Entrance to them may be gained directly from Grade VII of the Primary Schools and they offer eight years of specialized study. The first year is devoted to elementary classical work; the second to 'Syntax'; the third to 'Method'; the fourth to 'Versification'; the fifth to 'Belles Lettres'; the sixth to 'Rhetoric'; the seventh to Philosophy; and the eighth to Advanced Philosophy. The senior four-years work in the *Collèges Classiques* leads to a baccalaureate degree. In fact, these colleges provide the only channel of entry into university work for the traditional professions, although a boy from a Primary Superior School may proceed with Secondary education at certain recognized institutions to become an architect or engineer by completing a course at a university. The close affiliation of the *Collèges Classiques* with the Universities enables the prescribed course of study for a degree to be covered and the final university examinations to be taken from the colleges.

¹In those Provinces which have Junior High Schools pupils usually enter after completing Grade VI and remain for three or four years after which they graduate to Senior High.

²Or in certain Provinces when the student has passed Grade VIII (whatever his age).