

The education of Eskimo children is one of the problems of the far north. In the Eastern Arctic, Eskimo children are given some education at mission day schools. Because of their nomadic way of life, however, Eskimos seldom remain long at the settlements and the periods available to the missions for teaching the children are comparatively short. The Eskimos of the Eastern Arctic have long had a system of syllabic writing (expressed as geometric phonetic characters) which most of them can now read and write proficiently. Syllabic writing has been used successfully to provide educational material in the Eskimo language, giving advice on health matters, hygiene, and native economics for the benefit of both children and adults. With the establishment of schools in Eskimo Territory it is hoped that the Eskimos will learn, in due course, to understand simple English and be able to speak and read it.

The Department of Resources and Development recently initiated a program designed to improve educational and welfare facilities generally in the Northwest Territories. The program included the inauguration of an extensive circuit for the regular distribution of educational films, special radio broadcasts to classrooms, the provision of additional equipment and supplies, increased attention to methods of instruction, and the establishment of new day schools in areas where need exists. The new schools are being staffed by a particular classification of welfare teachers, who carry on welfare work in the communities in addition to regular teaching duties.

The schools in the Mackenzie District follow the program of studies for the elementary and secondary schools as authorized by the Alberta Department of Education. A modified elementary school curriculum, suitable for the unique needs of schools in the Arctic regions, is under consideration. In the remote areas, elementary and high-school students have access to correspondence-course studies issued by the Alberta provincial educational authorities.

Educational standing obtained in the Yellowknife High School compares favourably with that awarded in high schools in Alberta and is accepted by universities throughout Canada.

Yukon.—In Yukon, schools for the education of white and half-breed children are maintained by the Territorial Government. Public schools are operated at Dawson, Mayo, Whitehorse, Carcross, Teslin, Brook's Brook, Swift River, and Destruction Bay. The three last-named schools are one-room buildings, located on the Alaska Highway. In addition, St. Mary's Separate School at Dawson operates as a day school, and the Convent of Christ the King at Whitehorse operates as a residential school. The latter is also open to day pupils.

The education of native children is carried on in two types of schools. The day schools are operated by the Indian Affairs Branch of the Federal Department of Citizenship and Immigration, and the residential schools by religious denominations. Residential schools are given a per capita grant for each Indian child registered therein.

The public schools at Dawson and Whitehorse have high-school departments providing education leading to university entrance. University entrance (junior matriculation) examinations are held in June at Whitehorse and at Dawson by authority of the British Columbia Department of Education. The examination papers are forwarded from Victoria and are returned there to be graded. In outlying districts, correspondence courses are provided at a nominal cost by the British Columbia Department of Education.