

when it became a branch of the newly created Department of Mines and Resources. Since Jan. 18, 1950, Indian affairs have been the responsibility of a branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

After Confederation, the Parliament of Canada enacted various legislation concerning Indians, which was first consolidated in the Indian Act in 1876 and under which Indian administration is still conducted. The Act contains nearly all the Canadian law dealing expressly with Indians. The present Act, consolidated in 1880, has not been completely revised since that year, although, from time to time, it has been changed and amplified by amendments. A complete review and investigation of the Act was made during 1946, 1947 and 1948 by a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons; the Act is now in the process of revision.

Administration.—The primary function of the Indian Affairs Branch, under the Citizenship and Immigration Act and the Indian Act, is to administer the affairs of the Indians of Canada in a manner that will enable the Indian to become increasingly self-supporting and independent. The Indian Affairs Branch may be said to deal with the whole life of a people scattered in small communities across Canada. Among the leading functions of the Canadian Indian administration are: the management of Indian lands and reserves; trust funds; welfare projects; relief; family allowances; education; descent of property; rehabilitation of Indian veterans on Reserves; Indian treaty obligations; enfranchisement of Indians; and a variety of other matters.

The Indian Affairs Branch, with headquarters at Ottawa, is divided into the following services: Agencies (Field Administration); Education; Welfare; Reserves and Trusts; and Administration (Office of the Director, Office of the Secretary, Engineering and Construction Division and Records Division).

Agencies (Field Administration).—This Service consists of the office of a General Executive Assistant at headquarters and a field establishment including: 91 Indian agencies, each responsible for one or more Indian Reserves; the office of the Indian Commissioner for British Columbia; and offices of Regional Supervisors of Indian Agencies for Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec, southern Ontario, northern Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The Service is responsible for general field administration and the carrying out of departmental policy in the field in co-ordination and co-operation with other services in their respective activities.

Education (*See also Chapter IX.*)—The Indian school system has continued a steady growth in the number of schools operated and in the number of children being educated. In 1934, 256 day schools were in operation with 309 teachers employed. In 1939, the number had increased to 283 schools with 333 teachers; by the end of 1949 there were 364 day schools with 562 teachers.

There has been a steady improvement also in the qualifications of the teachers employed. The policy in respect to teaching staff is as follows: (1) elimination of unqualified teachers; (2) gradual reduction in the proportion of teachers holding Second and Third Class Certificates; (3) employment, wherever possible, of teachers holding First Class Certificates.

Between January, 1948, and January, 1950, the number of teachers holding First Class Certificates increased from 97 to 172; those with Second Class Certificates remained about the same viz., 106 in 1948 and 109 in 1950. Teachers with Third Class Certificates decreased during the two year period from 120 to 95.