

CHAPTER VII.—EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

CONSPECTUS

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The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

PART I.—FORMAL EDUCATION*

Section 1.—Education in the Provinces and Territories

Canada is committed to the principle of publicly supported, publicly controlled systems of education, with compulsory schooling and free elementary and secondary education operating under provincial school laws. This principle is based on the recognition that a high general education level on a broad front is necessary if Canada is to develop its resources to the full, safeguard its democratic institutions, and play a worthy role as a member of the community of nations.

Organization of Education in the Provinces.—Under the terms of Confederation each Canadian province is responsible for the establishment and administration of its own educational system. This is a right and a responsibility as jealously guarded today as it was at that time. It has resulted in the formation of ten distinct provincial systems with differing policies, organizations and practices. Even so, in some respects a great deal of similarity has developed among the systems as a result of interchange of personnel and ideas, ease of transportation and communication, interprovincial and national education bodies, proximity, co-operation and emulation. Each province has established a department of education (in Quebec it functions under the name "Department of Youth"), and each province except Quebec has a Cabinet Minister as Minister of Education. In Quebec public education is administered by a Superintendent of Education—a non-political appointee—who maintains liaison with the Cabinet through the Minister of the Department of Youth; he is head of the Council of Education, composed of Roman Catholic and Protestant committees which sit separately, each being responsible for the organization and administration of its own public schools and teacher-training institutions, for conducting examinations for school inspectors, and for making recommendations to the Cabinet concerning school grants and certain specified appointments.

* Prepared in the Education Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.