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*

Formal education has become one of the major concerns of government and society in Canada and is now recognized as the key to both individual and national prosperity. Machines and automated programs are performing an ever-increasing number of routine, repetitive tasks, thus reducing the job opportunities for untrained workers and at the same time opening up whole new fields for highly skilled personnel. As a result, education authorities face the dual task of building and staffing schools and universities at a hitherto unprecedented rate and of adjusting curricula to fit in with a rapidly changing state of society.

The absolute and relative growth of formal education in Canada is indicated by the fact that between 1948 and 1961 average daily attendance at public elementary and secondary schools doubled while the country's population increased by only 42.5 p.c. during the same period. Over this period, total expenditure on formal and vocational education and training increased by 382 p.c. and its proportion of the gross national product increased from 2.5 p.c. to 4.9 p.c. University enrolments increased from 86,800 in 1957 to over 141,400 in 1962 and the sharpest increases are still to come as the population bulge resulting from the great increase in births in the immediate postwar years is beginning to reach university-age level.

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