

demands for more staff and more money. Change is evident in every province but particularly so in Quebec where the school system is receiving special attention in the economic and social adjustment taking place in that province.

It should also be noted that the rural areas have presented Canada with its most insistent education problem. About 30 p.c. of the nation's population are classed as rural dwellers, some living in small communities or well organized farm districts but many others scattered over great areas, miles from town or school. During the past decade it is in the re-organization and centralization of rural education that the greatest changes have been made.

## Section 1.—Administration and Organization of Education

Under the terms of the British North America Act, 1867, the provincial governments have jurisdiction over the conduct of formal education within their respective boundaries, with certain exceptions. Thus, Canada has ten provincial systems of education and, although they have much in common, no two are identical. The greatest divergencies occur in Quebec, which because of its ethnic and religious composition has a dual system comprising Roman Catholic and Protestant sectors; in Newfoundland where a somewhat loosely knit denominational organization is in operation; and in the Yukon and Northwest Territories which, because of remoteness and scattered population, have special problems. The Quebec, Newfoundland and Territorial systems are discussed under separate headings.

Each province has a Department of Education headed by a Cabinet Minister. The Deputy Minister is in each case a permanent civil servant. Under him are department heads responsible for such areas as elementary education, secondary education, teacher training, special services, education services, curriculum and research, vocational education, registration and other phases, depending on the needs of the province. Inspectors or superintendents maintain liaison between the department and the school boards and teachers. In each province, statutes known as the School Law or Laws, together with the regulations issued by the Department of Education, form the basis for school organization and administration.

### Elementary and Secondary Education

Within the framework of each provincial jurisdiction, public elementary and secondary education is administered by local education authorities operating under the School Act. These school boards or boards of education are responsible for establishing and maintaining schools, employing teachers, providing pupil transportation where needed, and budgeting for the money required to operate the schools, which is raised through local taxation supplemented by certain government grants and sometimes through debenture financing. Local boards may be elected, appointed, or partly elected and partly appointed. They differ in number of members from three in most of the small rural units to five, seven or even twelve or more for urban units. Where larger units in rural areas have been established, there are central boards for the units representing the component districts, although there may be local boards retaining some custodial and advisory duties. The larger unit, replacing rural districts which were usually about four miles in extent, has been introduced by legislation in several provinces and made optional in others in an effort to provide better school facilities and greater equalization of costs and to mitigate the problems caused by a chronic shortage of teachers.

The public school system normally provides 12 or 13 years or grades, depending on the province. Common patterns for elementary and secondary levels are 8-4 or 8-5, 6-3-3 or 6-3-4, or 7-5 but the trend is toward six elementary years with six or seven years of secondary schooling. The generally accepted age of entrance to regular classes is now six years, although there has been an increased demand for kindergarten and nursery schools that has not been satisfied in many areas because of pressure for accommodation at the higher levels.