

## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

authorities, maintains stations and a staff for the study of the habits of the fish, methods of propagation, preservation and protection.

**Education.**—The Department of Education is under a minister who is also provincial secretary. The Superintendent of Education has the rank of a deputy minister. Supervision is in the hands of one high school inspector, fourteen inspectors of schools and one inspector of manual training schools. From the university to the primary school, the system is non-sectarian; English is the only recognized language of instruction in the common schools.

The provincial university, authorized by legislation passed in 1908, was organized in 1912 and 1913 by the first convocation, the appointment of the president and the first board of governors. This institution is governed by a chancellor, elected by convocation of alumni, a board of governors, appointed by the Government, and a senate partly elected by the convocation and partly representing the faculty and other teaching bodies. The university has faculties in arts, science, engineering (including mining) and agriculture.

Other educational institutions include two normal schools and over thirty high schools. There are also in the cities night schools in many departments of academic and technical instruction, with manual training and household science departments in the high schools and common schools. Text books are furnished to pupils free of cost.

The maintenance of all the city and town schools, and a large majority of the rural schools, is provided for by district or local assessment, supplemented by grants from the provincial treasury on a per capita basis. Control of these schools is vested in the local authorities subject to general regulations. There are, however, certain rural schools in the more scattered districts which are more directly under the control of the provincial department. The law provides for compulsory attendance at school for children between the ages of seven and fourteen. Cities and organized municipalities elect their school boards by popular vote. These boards appoint municipal inspectors and other officers.

**Municipal Government.**—For purposes of administration, counties, in the ordinary meaning of the word, are unknown in British Columbia. Local administration is at present based on the legislation known as the Municipal Clauses Act, and supplementary statutes, but municipal government existed in the colony as far back as 1860. Large powers of local self-government are conferred by the existing system. It provides for two classes of municipalities, urban and rural. An urban municipality may be formed by a community of not less than 100 male British subjects, provided the owners of more than half the land petition for it. There are 33 cities, with populations of 600 to over 100,000.

District municipalities may be organized by 30 resident male British subjects of full age. In 1916 there were in the province 28 such municipalities, having from 100 to more than 10,000 ratepayers. The city organizations are of the same general type, though differing in some details. In all, the chief executive officer is the mayor, and all have elective councils.

Neither the commission system nor the board of control has yet been introduced into British Columbia, but the board of control is