

TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN CANADA.

Technical Education in State Schools is a comparatively new institution. Until recently vocational training was undertaken after the completion or at the expense of academic education.

Among the first technical courses to be introduced into schools were commercial courses. Courses designed to fit pupils for business careers were introduced into the high school curricula of Ontario and Manitoba in 1899, of British Columbia in 1905, and Saskatchewan and Alberta about the same time, while the classical colleges of Quebec have long provided business courses and a school for higher commercial studies was founded at Montreal in 1907.

Agriculture was at first taught in colleges, which provided training for teachers who carried the subject into the schools. Apart from certain schools in Quebec and industrial schools having farms attached in other provinces, the study of agriculture in elementary and secondary day schools has hitherto been confined to school gardens and lessons on the science of agriculture.

Training in handicrafts was introduced into the school in the form of manual training for boys and domestic science for girls. The former was originally intended merely as a training in the use of tools, affording an agreeable diversion from the ordinary school work and a means by which the boy could gain some idea of his mechanical capacities. A form of manual training was introduced into Ontario schools in 1883, and in 1891 into Nova Scotia, where it was made compulsory for teachers in training in 1893, and into the western provinces in the early years of this century. By 1915, manual training courses in Ontario had branched out into industrial, technical and art schools, and in that year a large Technical School was opened in Toronto. Evening technical classes, which were organized in nearly all the provinces in the first years of the century, carried out a scheme of actual vocational courses. Such courses were for some time given by certain day schools in Quebec. The idea of part time day vocational courses is new to Canada. The Adolescent Act passed in Ontario in 1919, makes part time attendance compulsory for adolescents from 14 to 18 years of age who have not attained matriculation standing or are not attending full time. By 1919, commercial, agricultural and domestic science courses were operating in all provinces and other technical courses in all but Prince Edward Island.

In 1919, the Dominion Parliament passed an Act offering assistance to the provinces in promoting technical education and a Director of Technical Education was appointed under the Minister of Labour. The provincial governments accepted the offer and a technical education officer has been appointed in all but two provinces. The benefits of the Act are extended to persons over 14 years who are not provided for by the ordinary day schools; the agreement also excludes agricultural studies, the training of nurses and teachers for ordinary schools and all work of university grade. The expenditure in 1919-20 on technical education by local boards was about \$1,800,000, by provincial governments \$878,990 and by the federal government \$337,498. Details of teaching staff and enrolment of students are given in Table 9 on page 142.