

CHAPTER XXV.—EDUCATION.

Section 1.—Schools, Colleges and Universities.*

Throughout the Dominion of Canada public education, except for instruction of the native Indian population, is a matter of provincial concern. Before Confederation, the maritime colonies were separated from Ontario by French-speaking Quebec, and in each colony an educational system specially adapted to the local conditions had come into existence. When Confederation was under consideration, the protection of existing vested rights was the predominant consideration. As a result, Section 93 of the British North America Act, which embodies the Canadian constitution in so far as that constitution is a written one, provides that in and for each province the Legislature may exclusively make laws in respect of education, except that "nothing in any such law shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to denominational schools which any class of persons have by law in the province at the union".

Inasmuch as the administration of public education is one of the chief functions of Provincial Governments, in each of the provinces except Quebec there is a Department of Education administered either by a member of the Provincial Executive Council or Cabinet or by the Executive Council or Cabinet as a whole. In practice, however, the routine administration is in the hands of the permanent officials of the Department of Education, who are members of the permanent civil service. In Quebec the Superintendent of Education, appointed by the Government, is *ex officio* President of the Council of Public Instruction. The link between the Department of Public Instruction and the Government is the Provincial Secretary; there are also two deputy heads, called the French and English Secretaries of the Department.

Since the Departments of Education are permanent authorities, controlled as to details of administration by permanent officials, educational policy is relatively permanent; further, the control of the governments over education throughout the provinces is relatively stronger than in the United States. A capable Deputy Minister or Superintendent of Education impresses his personality and his views upon the whole system of his province, especially as in practice he controls the payment of government grants, which constitute, on the average, about 14 p.c. of the total expenditure applied to educational purposes.

The Department of Education in each province naturally has its headquarters at the capital of the province. Its local representatives are the school inspectors, who are appointed and paid by the Provincial Governments, except for the "public" and "separate" schools in Ontario, where they are appointed (in all but unorganized districts) by the county or city municipality from a list approved by the province.

Education in Quebec.—In Quebec there are two distinct systems of education—the Roman Catholic and the Protestant systems—in each of which the teaching of religion takes a prominent position. In the latter, which is under the control of the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction, with an English Secretary, the curriculum and the general system of education are similar to those in the other provinces, except that the highest grade is Grade XI, from which students are matriculated to McGill University and Bishop's University, the two Protestant English-speaking universities of the province.

* Revised by M. C. MacLean, M.A., F.S.S., Chief, Education Statistics Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This Branch is concerned with compiling and publishing comparable data relating to educational institutions throughout Canada, and to this end co-operates with the Provincial Departments of Education. A list of the publications of this Branch will be found in Chapter XXIX, Section 1, under "Education".