

four principal territorial divisions—the Western Provinces, Ontario, Quebec, and the three older Maritime provinces—and six from the province of Newfoundland. The chief functions of the Senate, termed “that sober second thought in legislation” by Sir John A. Macdonald, are the careful study and criticism of legislation passed in the House of Commons. The Senate may also initiate legislation, with the exception of money bills. Every bill must be passed by both chambers before becoming law. In practice the Senate rarely utilizes its theoretical power of dissent.

The provincial legislatures, with the exception of Quebec, are made up of one elected chamber, which functions in a manner similar to the House of Commons. Quebec alone maintains an appointed Executive Council in addition to the elected Assembly, and Newfoundland has reserved the right to re-establish a Legislative Council. Municipal government in incorporated communities in Canada is administered by city or town councils, headed by mayors or reeves.

The administration of justice is carried out by the various federal, provincial, and municipal courts and, to some extent, by administrative boards. Judges, except those in municipal courts, are appointed for life by the federal government and may be removed from office only by the passage of a joint address by both houses of parliament.

The Criminal Code of Canada, an Act of the Canadian Parliament, is based largely on British criminal law. The province of Quebec has its own Civil Code, based to a large degree on the Code Napoléon. In the other provinces the law respecting persons and property is based on the Common Law of England. The Supreme Court is the final court of appeal in Canada.

A meeting of the City Council of Fredericton, New Brunswick.



School children prepare for a game of baseball.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Education

Education in Canada is democratic. It is modern in outlook; it has achieved a high standard of academic and technical studies; and it is marked by racial and religious tolerance. Ninety-seven per cent of Canadian adults are literate.

Since education is a provincial responsibility, there are, strictly speaking, eleven educational systems in Canada, including two (a French- and an English-language system) in Quebec. It is possible, however, to discern a number of features common to all. Interprovincial co-operation and the work of national educational associations are producing a growing uniformity of standards across the country, although Quebec's French-language system, serving one-quarter of Canada's youth, has an individuality that distinguishes it sharply from the others.

The Canadian educational system generally is based upon free public schools, maintained by provincial and municipal authorities. The first free schools were established after the Act of Union in 1841. Egerton Ryerson, the first superintendent of education in Upper Canada, was the outstanding leader in the