

EDUCATION CONVENTION

The Canadian Education Association held its thirty-fifth Convention recently in Victoria, British Columbia.

In his Presidential address, Dr. H.L. Campbell pointed out that, with the exception of Switzerland, Canada is virtually the only country with no national office of education. The division of public education in Canada into ten provincial systems is both a strength and a weakness. It allows for the development of a programme best suited to the needs of a particular area, but at the same time, it is likely to produce unequal standards. The Canadian Education Association has gradually assumed, by unanimous consent, many of the functions which would be performed by a national office of education, and its role in education has become increasingly important.

With the co-operation of the provincial departments of education and other educational bodies, the C.E.A. sponsored, for the sixth year, a three-week short course for school inspectors and superintendents. This is now a self-supporting activity of the Association, with the sending agencies sharing the cost on an equal basis.

An encouraging incident of the year was the gift by Imperial Oil Limited of \$100,000 for the establishment of a research office in education. It is proposed to enlarge the Research Council which acts in an advisory capacity to the Directors of the Association. Dr. Cecil P. Collins, formerly Superintendent of Schools in Saskatchewan, has been appointed Research officer.

The J.G. Althouse Award in Educational Leadership, established last year, was given for 1958 to Dr. G.C. Goldring, for many years Director of Education for the City of Toronto, and a longtime friend and supporter of the Canadian Education Association.

The Canadian National Commission for UNESCO, established by the Canada Council in 1957, held its first meeting in Ottawa last February. Three places in the 26-member Commission and one place on its seven-member executive have been allocated to the C.E.A. One of the functions laid down for the Com-

mission is to assist Canadians to attend international conferences abroad, in matters that lie outside the immediate competence of the Federal Government. It is hoped that the Commission will give some consideration to the problem of Canadian representation at international educational conferences.

Since 1952 the C.E.A. has regularly sent a representative to the annual International Conference on Public Education in Geneva, Switzerland. Dr. C.F. Cannon, Chief Director of Education for Ontario, was the able representative at the Conference this year. Jointly sponsored by the International Bureau of Education and UNESCO, this Conference brings together educators from some 70 countries for both formal and informal exchanges of views. Each year, in addition to national reports on education, particular attention is given to two major subjects; for 1958, these special topics were "Education in Rural Areas", and "Primary School Syllabi".

A notable event in Canadian educational affairs was the Canadian Conference on Education held last February. Sponsored by 19 organizations, of which the C.E.A. was one, the Conference brought together in Ottawa some 850 delegates. These represented many different occupations and interests, and they discussed at length various problems in all aspects of education.

A National Committee and an Executive Committee were appointed as continuing organizations, with an Executive Secretary and an office at 85 Sparks Street, Ottawa. The broad purpose of the Canadian Conference on Education is to act as a medium between the public and those responsible for education.

It is not to be confused with the National Conference of Canadian Universities which also has an office in Ottawa.

The interest and concern which are felt in all parts of Canada about educational matters are illustrated by the fact that, within the past few years, there have been Royal Commissions on Education in five of the provinces, three of which have been sitting during the present year.

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TO MINIMIZE SURPRISE ATTACK

The Department of External Affairs has announced the appointment of Mr. L. Dana Wilgress to lead the Canadian participants in the meeting of technical experts, due to begin in Geneva on November 10, to study the practical aspects of minimizing the possibility of surprise attack. Mr. Wilgress for the past five years has been the permanent representative of Canada to the North Atlantic Council. He will be accompanied by political and tech-

nical advisors from the Department of External Affairs and the Department of National Defence.

The prospective conference is the outcome of proposals made by the President of the United States to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. some months ago. The Soviet Union has indicated that experts from Czechoslovakia, Poland and Roumania will take part on its side. For the Western countries there will also be experts from France, Italy, the United Kingdom, the United States and possibly other countries.