

A letter was sent to each of the Provincial Department of Education requesting information on the teaching of Latin America in the primary and secondary schools. Only Ontario had not replied at the moment of completion of this report.

The response shows that Latin America is not a neglected field by any means. More time is spent studying it at primary level on such topics as "Plains life" (Argentina)", "Mountain life" (Mexico) than is done, in most cases, in the secondary school curriculum. The latter includes mention of the conquest, the wars of independence, the Monroe Doctrine, and the Good Neighbour Policy, but the study of post-independence Latin America is usually mentioned in the wider context of European and North American affairs. It is worth noting that students in the province of Quebec get fewer hours of instruction on Latin America and, also, rarely discuss the post-independence period. This is not the case in the eight other provinces where there is planned discussion on the republican period.

The correspondence in Latin American Division files included a number of requests from school children and university students. They always needed information on "Canada and the OAS" for their essays and debates. This demonstrates that teachers and professors continue to regard Canada and the OAS as a worthy topic.

The exposure to Latin America in the social studies programmes will no doubt increase as more teachers become familiar with the area. Certainly the enrollments in university extension and summer courses on Latin America indicate that there is interest in this "exotic" field. And teachers who have an interest and awareness of "exotic" subjects have an opportunity to present them in the majority of provincial educational programmes.