

# EDUCATIONAL REVIEW

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The Smith-Tower Bill which has been before the Congress of the United States during the past summer, is a law of unusual interest and significance to persons concerned with the problems afforded by Education in a democracy

This bill provides for the establishment of a national Department of Education, with a secretary in the President's Cabinet, and authorizes the appropriation of \$100,000,000 to encourage the states in the promotion of education.

In order that a state may share in the appropriation, which is to be used in Primary and Secondary schools in partial payment of the teachers' salaries, certain requirements must be met. These are (a) A legal school term of at least twenty-four weeks in each year for the benefit of all the children of school age in such state. (b) A compulsory school attendance law requiring all children between the ages of seven and fourteen to attend some school for at least twenty-four weeks in each year. (c) A law requiring that the English language shall be the basic language of instruction in the common school branches in all schools, public and private.

Many of the most conspicuous social organizations in the United States have declared themselves in favor of this bill. The bill is opposed by two factions, those who are not in favor of the use of federal money for the promotion of education and those who fear the establishment of a Board of Education may interfere with private and parochial schools.

The American government has already committed itself to the policy of subsidizing education. The efforts of the government in the past have, however, been directed very largely to the support of agricultural and vocational education.

The clause requiring compulsory school attendance does not require the twenty-four weeks attendance in a public school but rather in any school, public, parochial or private

The outlook for the bill is thought to be very encouraging.

This law before the American Congress should at least arouse a question in the minds of all thoughtful educators in Canada. Have we a need of stimulating the interest of the provinces in education? Have our people, our school trustees, our teachers, rightly considered their responsibility in educating the young?