

Public Health.

By the municipal code power is given to the local council to establish boards of health and to adopt sanitary precautions against contagious diseases; also to provide for a pure water supply (36). But the chief responsibility is imposed by statute upon a board of health, consisting of seven persons, four of whom must be qualified physicians in practice for at least five years. The members of the board are appointed for a period not exceeding three years. The president receives an annual indemnity of \$400; the secretary an annual salary of \$2,400. The duties of the board consist in preparing and studying vital and medical statistics, in making sanitary investigations, either directly or through municipal councils, in establishing, supervising, and advising local boards of health, and in distributing practical information throughout the province upon matters of health and disease. The board has power to make, amend and repeal by-laws for the promotion of public health, and the prevention of disease, and when the local by-law is contrary to that of the provincial board the latter prevails. By a recent statute (37) the law respecting public health has been amended and consolidated, and among the important subjects included in the new law are provisions relating to drinking-water (no aqueduct or intake for which can be established without the approval of the board), and the inspection of food and drink, regulations respecting contagious diseases, the enactment of by-laws for the maintenance of health in industrial establishments, vaccination, vital statistics, and prosecution for infractions of the law.

The appointees to the board of health are men of repute and activity, but it is clear from the reports included in the sessional papers printed by the legislature that a stricter enforcement of the law which requires local municipalities to report to the central authorities is necessary for complete efficiency. For example, the recorder of statistics remarks in one place: "So many municipalities have neglected to send in a report of births and deaths that we hesitate to place before our readers a comparative table of marriage rates of other countries and of the province of Quebec. We do so, however, to awaken, if possible, the apathy of those who are the immediate cause of the defect in our statistics."

Education.

The system of separate schools for Roman Catholics and Protestants prevails in the province. In any school municipality any number of ratepayers professing a religious belief different from that of the majority may form a separate corporation for school purposes under the administration of trustees. Educational affairs are under the supervision of a Council of Public Instruction, consisting of members appointed by the provincial Government. The council is divided into two committees, one composed of Roman Catholic, the other of Protestant members. Each of these committees appoints its chairman and secretary, and makes regulations for the organization, administration and discipline of its section of the public schools, including the division of the province into districts for inspection, the regulating of normal schools, text books, boards of examiners, and like matters. The nominal head of the department of public instruction is the Superin-

tendent of Education, who is *ex officio* a member of the council, and whose duty it is to distribute according to law the legislative grants for educational institutions. He is also the statistician and intermediary between educational bodies and the legislature. For educational purposes the province is divided into school municipalities under the control of school commissioners; and these municipalities are again subdivided into school districts, no one of which must exceed five miles in length and breadth. The Education Act (62 Vic. cap. 28) provides machinery for the annual election of commissioners or trustees, the collection of taxes, appointment of school inspectors, examination of teachers, the application of the public school fund, the establishment of normal schools and pensions for teachers.

From the report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction dated 12th February, 1903, it appears that there are 6,078 schools in the province, with an attendance of 333,431 (38). Of these, 5298 are elementary schools, 568 model schools, and 166 academies. There are four universities; eight schools of art and design; five normal schools with six schools annexed to them; four schools for the deaf, dumb, and blind; and nineteen Catholic classical colleges. The same source places the aggregate governmental contributions to schools at \$236,867, of which public schools received \$160,393, superior education \$55,646, and the poor municipalities \$20,827 (39). In the larger towns and cities educational facilities are fairly ample, although the rapid increase of population in Montreal is sorely taxing the accommodation provided; but the condition of the rural schools leaves much to be desired. Some conception of these may be derived from the fact that the average salary of teachers in Roman Catholic elementary schools is \$110, and in Protestant elementary schools \$151 (40).

Justice.

The Cities and Towns Act, 1903, provides for the organization of courts of record styled Recorder's Courts (41),

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Lieutenant-Governor in Council upon nomination by the town council. The recorder must be an advocate of at least five years' standing, and his salary, rarely exceeding \$500, is paid by the council. In Montreal, however, there are two recorders, appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and removable only upon joint address of the two Houses of the legislature. Their emoluments *per annum* are \$4,000 each, with additional fees as license and expropriation commissioners. They have all the powers of judges of the sessions of the peace, in addition to special jurisdiction for the trial of suits under the city's by-laws, appeals from assessments, revision of voter's lists for civic elections, and concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit court in suits between lessors and lessees. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council also appoints stipendiary magistrates, called Judges of the Sessions of the Peace, for the cities of Quebec and Montreal, and District Magistrates, with the powers of two justices of the peace, for petty criminal jurisdiction in the various judicial districts of the province as required by public exigencies. The nomination of justices of the peace is largely complimentary.

(To be Concluded.)