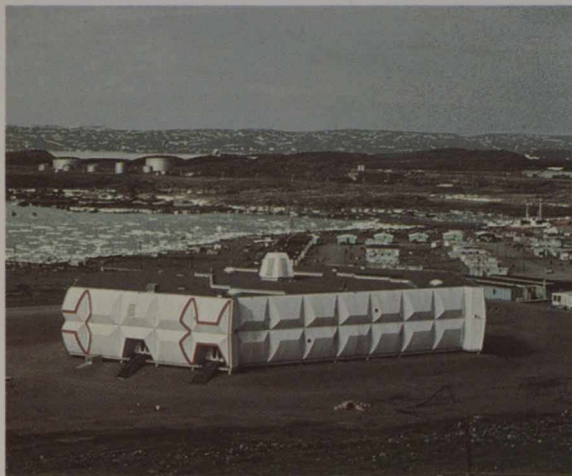


lion elementary students; in 1979 there were 2.6 million.

The number of secondary students, which peaked at 1.9 million in 1977, is expected to drop to 1.4 million by the early 1990s.

Canada has more than 60 chartered universities and 140 community colleges, many with satellite campuses. In 1978-79 the number of post-secondary students dropped for the first time, by 1.4 per cent. Still, some 900,000 full and part-time students were enrolled in 1980.

The development of community colleges



The Gordon Robertson Education Centre in Frobisher Bay, N.W.T., named after the former Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, was opened in 1971. It offers academic and pre-vocational training to 272 students in grades 7 through 12.

(called Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology, or CAATs, in Ontario and *Collèges d'enseignement général et professionnel*, or CEGEPs, in Quebec) may be Canada's most significant innovation. Higher education is now far more accessible in Canada (and the United States) than in most European countries. Dr. James Perkins, head of the International Council for Educational Development, has noted that the ease with which this has happened remains a puzzle to most Europeans.

In Canada a prime factor was the Technical and Vocational Training Act of 1960, which provided federal funding for building and staffing an expanded technical and community college system throughout the country.

A Brief History

The first Canadian public schools opened around 1820.

They usually consisted of a single room in a log building. Teachers, often old or disabled soldiers or men too sickly to work at more vigorous jobs, were housed and fed by the parents on a rotating basis. Equipment was minimal—a wall slate for writing, a lectern for the teacher and benches without backs for the pupils. The pupils ranged in age from six to sixteen, each receiving instruction at his own level.

They were graduated after four or five years,



Students in Glenelg, Ontario, 1910.