

Educational History

Confederation her legislature took hold of the subject. In 1872 an Act was passed organizing a non-sectarian public school system, and this has remained undisturbed ever since. A public school fund was set apart and a Board of Education appointed, with Mr. John Jessop as superintendent. In 1879 this Board was abolished and its duties transferred to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. The Act of 1891 went still further in constituting the Executive Council a Council of Public Instruction, with general powers over the schools of the province. Since 1905 the municipalities have been called upon to bear a larger share of the support of their own schools, which, before that, were borne principally by the Government, except in cities, where only a certain per capita grant was allowed by the province after the year 1888. The different governments have been disposed to help education as liberally as the somewhat limited finances of the province would allow, and the excellence of the school buildings throughout the province is often remarked by visitors. This is true practically of the whole western country, which had the advantage of having no old buildings on its hands as a legacy from former generations.

Even the very newest parts of the West, such as the Yukon and the Peace River country, have shown an enthusiastic interest in the cause of education. Schools are established as soon