

what is implied in his being responsible to the Government rather than to the Parliament and an elective constituency.

Ten Inspectors are under his immediate direction, in charge of the inspection of schools, teachers, returns and educational matters generally within the ten inspectorates into which the province is divided. The Inspector is also Secretary of the Boards of District School Commissioners referred to as created originally in 1832 which may be within his jurisdiction. The functions of these Boards now are little more than the modification of the boundaries of the School Sections, which are the ultimate territorial subdivisions of the province, averaging an area of from three to four miles in diameter, and the creation of new school sections, subject to the ratification of the Council of Public Instruction. The school section, of which there are now about 1,900, is really a small corporation or self-governing community for school purposes, is governed by a board of three school trustees (except in the case of incorporated towns and cities, where a larger board of "commissioners" is appointed, partly by the town councils and partly by the Governor-in-Council), of which one is elected by the ratepayers of the section present at the annual meeting which is held shortly before the beginning of each school year, normally on the last Monday in June, and is the annual parliament of the section. The board of trustees here present their estimates for the support of the school for the ensuing year, and after discussion, sometimes vehement and involved enough for a county or provincial legislative body, the amount to be assessed on the section next year is voted.

The free school course of study is of a normal length of twelve years, eight of which are covered in the first eight "grades," called "common" school grades, and four in the ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades, called the "high" school grades. As the twelfth year work is of university grade, students from the high schools generally enter the universities from the eleventh grade, except in a few non-university towns where there is a strong staff of high school teachers.