

The Universities of Canada

By J. A. P. HAYDON, "Labor's" Canadian Correspondent

CANADA has always been proud of the fact that every child in the Dominion is given the opportunity to acquire a sound education at public cost.

Although its population is small when compared with that of its southern neighbor and widely scattered, it has established an educational system that compares favorably with older and richer countries. It maintains excellent elementary schools, in which education is absolutely free, because it recognizes that they are the bulwark of democracy and the working tools of a free people.

For the most part, secondary education is also free, only nominal fees being charged in a few of the provinces.

In addition, there are 23 universities and 97 colleges. Each province maintains at least one university which offers every opportunity for the training that makes the "full man" of learning.

Though the oldest university in Canada is young compared with Oxford, Cambridge, St. Andrews, Dublin and other institutions which are historic landmarks in the British Isles, some have been established sufficiently long to acquire a degree of veneration and a measure of tradition.

King's College at Halifax, founded in 1789, is the oldest university in the Dominion. In 1800 the University of New Brunswick at Fredericton came into being. The foundation of Dalhousie University dates from 1818 and three years later McGill was established at Montreal.

The University of Toronto claimed until recently the distinction of having a greater student enrollment than any other university in the British Empire, but this honor is now

claimed by Laval University at Quebec, which at the end of 1929 had a total enrollment of 7,720, compared with 6,422 at Toronto. The University of Montreal held third place with 4,130 and McGill was fourth with 3,191.

An indication that the merit of Canadian educational facilities is recognized in the British Isles, the United States and other countries is given by an official report showing that in 1929 there were 198 students from Great Britain, 1,495 from the United States, 49 from the British West Indies and 351 from other countries.

Last summer several headmasters of the leading schools of the British Isles came to Canada to ascertain at first hand what advantages the Canadian universities offered to young men of the "old country" after graduation from the public schools. Dr. Horwood of Harrow, head of the delegation, and his colleagues returned home satisfied that they were turning out graduates properly fitted for life and capable of holding up their end in any country.

Six of the universities are controlled by the provincial governments—New Brunswick, Toronto, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Four are undenominational—Dalhousie at Halifax, N. S.; McGill at Montreal, P. Q.; Queen's at Kingston, Ont.; and Western, at London, Ont.

The remainder are denominational—St. Dunstan's at Charlottetown, P. E. I.; St. Francis Xavier at Antigonish, N. S.; St. Joseph's at St. Joseph, N. S.; Laval at Quebec, P. Q.; Montreal at Montreal, P. Q., and Ottawa at the Canadian capital, representing the Roman Catholic Church.

The Church of England supports King's at



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