

EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

Education is compulsory in Canada to all children from the age of 6 to 14 or 16, depending on the provinces where they live, and is free until the completion of secondary-school studies. Most schools are co-educational, and vary in form from the one-room school-house to ultra-modern suburban structures.

Under the terms of the British North America Act, responsibility for education is vested in the provinces. There is no federal department of education, but the ten provincial departments exercise exclusive jurisdiction over education in their respective provinces.

In some provinces separate schools are operated by Catholic or Protestant minorities. Relatively few students attend private schools; in the English-speaking provinces, the proportion is 3 per cent, and in Quebec 7 per cent.

In spite of the multiplicity of educational systems and authorities, co-operation has produced more uniformity than might be expected.

Canada has about 385 universities and colleges, with a full-time enrolment of 268,000 students. Some of these institutions receive provincial and federal grants; others are supported by religious denominations and private endowment.

Because university fees have risen in recent years, students often take part-time or summer employment. In 1964, the Federal Government established a \$50-million programme of student loans. A student may borrow up to \$5,000 during his undergraduate years or graduate years at a Canadian university or other institution of higher learning.

