

EDUCATION.

To no matter affecting the progress of the people of British Columbia has the Provincial Government paid more attention than to that of education. Indeed, it may be said that the entire department has been reorganized, mainly in the direction of vesting to a very large extent all local responsibility in boards of school trustees. Thus, with few exceptions, including remote and thinly settled localities, the school districts into which the province is divided have been given power to assess themselves for the maintenance of the schools. The local departments are, of course, to some extent subject to the regulations of the general Department of Education, but the result has been a very markedly beneficial one, tending towards a higher system of education, with greatly improved facilities.

This last particular is especially due to the adoption by the Provincial Government of a free text-book system, such as has already been provided in the provinces of Alberta, New Brunswick and others in the Dominion, with the exception that, in this province, instead of the text-books, when issued, becoming the property of the pupil, they are loaned on certain conditions, thus forming a sort of educational lending library, a book being charged to a pupil and marked off when returned. This arrangement has met with great favour, all the common and graded schools of the Province, with one or two exceptions, having taken advantage of it, and the Provincial Normal School being supplied from this branch.

Another most important educational measure has been the introduction of legislation providing for the incorporation and establishment of a University of British Columbia, an institution for which there has long been a growing need. The arrangements as finally passed in the Act are very complete, including, in addition to the regular academical courses, special branches in practical science, such as agriculture, mining, forestry and technical and industrial training generally. The selection of a suitable site for the institution has been placed in the hands of a Commission of three University principals of Eastern Canada, and upon the adoption of their report, construction of this most valuable addition to the Province's educational facilities will at once be commenced.

SUMMARY.

Whether one takes the above record of the business-like administration of a business Government as a whole, or whether it is examined clause by clause, it is a record of which