

## EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Even a cursory glance at educational advancement in the Province of Quebec proves that the spirit of progress animates the work of the Provincial Government. What a tremendous change has taken place in education in the Province of Quebec during the past 25 years! At that time Quebec was regarded by the other provinces as being backward in public instruction, so much so that there are even people today, who without knowing the progress that has been realised during the last ten years, still regard Quebec as being behind the times in education. Few can hold this view of the province, however, after seeing the pupils at work in the technical schools of Montreal, Quebec and Shawinigan, at the different commercial academies, elementary schools, primary schools dotted everywhere throughout the province. From the universities of McGill and Laval, which both receive substantial grants from the Government, right down to the primary school, there has been a progressive educational movement which has actually revolutionized education in the Province of Quebec during the last decade.

## TECHNICAL SCHOOLS HAVE SPRUNG UP

In all parts of the province classical colleges, convents, agricultural colleges, technical schools, normal schools and commercial academies have sprung up. This good work has been done to such an extent that the Premier of Quebec recently fittingly described the position by stating "Our schools are becoming monuments which cost us much sacrifice, but which gives us considerable pride". During a recent discussion on this subject Sir Lomer Gouin declared: "We are proud of the progress that has been realized. All this work has cost millions to the province, but is the province more poor on account of it? Not only has the prosperity of the province enabled us to make this advancement in education, but this advancement in education has enabled the province to enjoy much of its prosperity."

## RESULT OF IMPROVEMENT

The result of the improvement in the educational facilities are being shown daily. Every businessman notices a considerable improvement of the finished product of the school when the boys and girls start out to earn their own livelihood. The colleges and school of the provinces are turning out weekly the very material from which are made prelates, magistrates, advocates, notaries, eminent engineers, successful businessmen, expert agriculturalists and persons prepared for the special work which they have chosen as their means of livelihood.

Mr. C.-J. Magnan, the inspector general of schools in the province, in one of his recent reports is authority for the statement that "in 20 years the primary school has made a marvellous progress in this Province".

Along the marked improvement in school buildings, which as Sir Wilfrid Laurier once described as mere bricks and mortar unless there is a good curriculum, there has been a corresponding improvement in the programme of instruction. An example can be given of the banking system that is taught to the students at Lachine Academy, just to mention one case. The lessons in typewriting can be mentioned as another example. Children are being taught in the public schools of the province to operate touch typewriting machines. The machines are letterless on the key board.

There is every evidence that the public demand the most modern methods of instruction, and they are prepared to pay for it in order to get the advantage of an up-to-date educational system for their children.

It is not generally known that the majority of pupils attending the Council of Arts classes in Montreal are over 18 years of age. There is one pupil there who is 65 years of age. He is a carpenter, and he applies the lessons he learns at night school to his work in the workshop the following day.