

EDUCATION IN CANADA

By HERNARD K. SANDWELL.

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The school may be said to have been literally the first institution set up by the white man in Canada. No where in the new world is the history of education so ancient or so honorable. Not only are the schools of Canada the oldest in America, but they are also the best.

When the French settled the shores of the St. Lawrence, their explorers, soldiers and peasants were accompanied by missionaries whose first work it was to establish schools for the Indian population. Nowhere else were the Indians so treated, whether by English, Spanish or Dutch explorers. When children of white birth began to grow up in the colony, there were schools and teachers all ready for them; and long before the rival settlements of the south had done more than clear the ground for forts and farms, the youth of Quebec were learning

universities and colleges; there are 500,000 students in the province; literacy is practically unknown, and by an extensive system of scholarships the highest ranges of education are within the reach of the poorest boy who possesses marked ability and application.

The Hon. George W. Ross, a school-teacher himself in the sixties when Ontario was feeling her way toward this ideal system, was the minister of education for eighteen years, the closing eighteen years of the last century before he became first the premier of his province and then a member of the dominion senate; and he has left on record the opinion that the Ontario school system "is the evolution of the best thought of different legislatures, aided and directed by the judgment of men who gave a lifetime to the task of adapting broad principles of organization and pedagogy to the wants

velling libraries are operated by this department in rural communities, and the children in all Ontario schools are encouraged to make the freest possible use of the available collections.

But it is in the west that education has accomplished its greatest marvels. Almost the first thing done there was to establish a school district, largely financed by the revenue



WESLEY COLLEGE, WINNIPEG, MAN.

one from lands set apart for the purpose in every township in the early seventies, and in part by a special tax on land. Saskatchewan has two thousand schools, nearly three times the number it possessed when established as a province in 1905, and some sixty thousand school children, and this year about two and a half million dollars will be spent on the schools alone. The province of Alberta is even more aggressive. Both of these young provinces have established state universities costing half a million each for buildings alone. Education in the prairie provinces is not compulsory, but there is a strong demand that it be made so. It is no uncommon thing for a school in the west to have pupils of twenty or thirty different nationalities, just over from Europe and hardly able to speak a word of English; but the task of making these Canadians is being carried on with astounding efficiency. The Alberta, Saskatchewan has sixty thousand school children.

In Manitoba there is an even more strenuous fight going on for compulsory education than further west. While the schools there are doing ex-

cellent work the cause of education in general has been greatly handicapped by constant conflicts regarding the rights of the Roman Catholic minority, who do not possess here the privilege of absolutely separate schools which enables them to go their own way in most of the other provinces.

In Quebec the Protestant minority carries on a separate school system of its own under religious control. Up to the last year or two the inadequate revenues of the province allowed very little to be done by the government for the schools of either section of the population, and Catholic education was promoted largely by the devotion of certain religious brotherhoods and the clergy, while the Protestant schools were either crushed by poverty or maintained by generous self-taxation on the part of the people. One result of this system has been to induce great private generosity on the part of the millionaires of the province, such as that by which Sir William Macdonald established the Macdonald college, the model agricultural training school of the world and one of the finest institutions for training teachers on the American continent. In the last two years the government has been able to make somewhat more generous grants to the poorer schools, but the state of Protestant education in many parts is still unsatisfactory especially as some of them are dominated, as it is the case in Montreal, by incapable men.

Public opinion, however, is being

roused calling attention to this state of affairs, and it is expected that the province will follow the sister provinces in putting education outside of politics, and provide educational facilities for all denominations of its population.

The universities of Canada are famed the world over. Perhaps the best known is that of McGill, in Montreal, which owes all its greatness to the generosity of a few wealthy citizens and to the wisdom of its directors in devoting their funds at an early period to scientific apparatus. Toronto is really, always famous for its arts teaching, has in the last few years been financed by the Ontario government to a point where it can compete to some extent with McGill for science students. Denominational colleges, both for theology and arts, flourish all over the country, chief among the Protestants being Queen's, the Presbyterian foundation at Kingston, and among the Catholics the University of Laval at Quebec, with its branch at Montreal. Technical schools, Ontario as usual leading the way, have sprung up in every important center under provincial direction but there is at present a movement

on foot to ascertain what the federal government can do for this branch of education, from which those who put a broad construction on the freest North America Act, the constitution of Canada, claim that it is not excluded.

A PROGRESSIVE UNIVERSITY.
Prof. Laos Tells What Paris University is Doing.

Prof. J. M. Laos, Royal Military College, delegate of the French Alliance, an organization whose aim is to promote a better understanding between France and other countries on literary grounds, has just received a copy of the annual report of the University of Paris for 1910-1911. It shows that the faculties of law, medicine, science, letters, and pharmacy numbered, last January, 17,311 students, 3,172 of whom were foreigners, with 282 professors. The Catholic and Protestant faculties of theology, suppressed in 1906 and running independently, are not included in the above statement, nor the several institutes connected with the work of the university, but situated outside the city limits.

Committees of all kinds are at the disposal of the students, as, for instance, the Franco-Scottish Association, open to French and Scotch natives, to children born of French or Scotch parents, to graduates of universities in either country and to officials of both.

The object of the institution is to promote intercourse between the universities of France and Scotland by encouraging their respective students to attendance in both; to introduce the respective members to each other; to encourage historical investigation into the former relations between the two countries, and to organize meetings to be held in France and Scotland alternately, etc. The Franco-Canadian committee meet at La Sorbonne inquiry office.



MANITOBA COLLEGE.

WALTH IN GERMANY.
Money is in the Hands of a Few.

Berlin, Germany, Nov. 5.—That Germany's rapid advancement as an industrial state is accompanied by an enormous concentration of wealth in the hands of a few is disclosed as the result of investigations by the Prussian statistical office. Figures based upon the income tax returns show that since 1902 the total amount of the fortunes held by members of the wealthiest people has vastly increased, but that it has been distributed among a smaller number of individuals.

Taking Germany's leading millionaires, it has been found that eighteen total wealth as was divided among more than thirty in 1902. The average increase of wealth among 1,000 of the richest men in Prussia has been nearly 2,000,000 marks (\$800,000). The report is being utilized by the

LEFT HIS WIFE A DOLLAR.
Bequeathed Rest of Estate to Daughters.

Toronto, Nov. 5.—"I give to my wife, Maggie P. Taylor, the sum of one dollar."

Thus directs the will of John Francis Taylor, harness-maker, of Toronto, who died here July 24th last, and



ARTS BUILDING, MCGILL COLLEGE.

whose will was filed for probate, Friday, the rest of the estate, amounting to \$3,061, is divided among the daughters.

IRISH PERFECTO COMING.
Tobacco Grown on Big Scale in Emerald Isle.

London, Nov. 4.—It may not be long before the "Irish perfecto" will be as familiar as the "clear Havana."

Tobacco growing is being developed with some rapidity in Ireland. The total area under cultivation in Ireland is one hundred and twenty acres, comprising seventy-nine acres of pipe tobacco, twenty-eight acres of cigarette and thirteen acres of cigar tobacco. In Dublin a company employs sixty workmen and turns out pipe tobacco and cigars and cigarettes, all made from the home-grown product.

One of the chief drawbacks to the small farmer undertaking the curing of his own tobacco has been the

socialists to emphasize the contrast between the concentration of wealth and the prevailing unsatisfactory conditions among the working people.

REGINA IS ANGRY.
Threat to Sue Eastern Couple for Slander.

Regina, Sask., Nov. 4.—Failing a full retraction of charges made by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wright, London, Ont., with respect to an alleged red light district in Regina, Mayor Williams has instructed the city solicitor to report as to whether or not an action would be for slander or defamation of the city's character. In the event of the solicitor advising that such action could be taken, pending the withdrawal of the charges, proceedings will, it is stated, be in the course instituted.

After learning a profession many a youth discovers that he should have learned a trade.



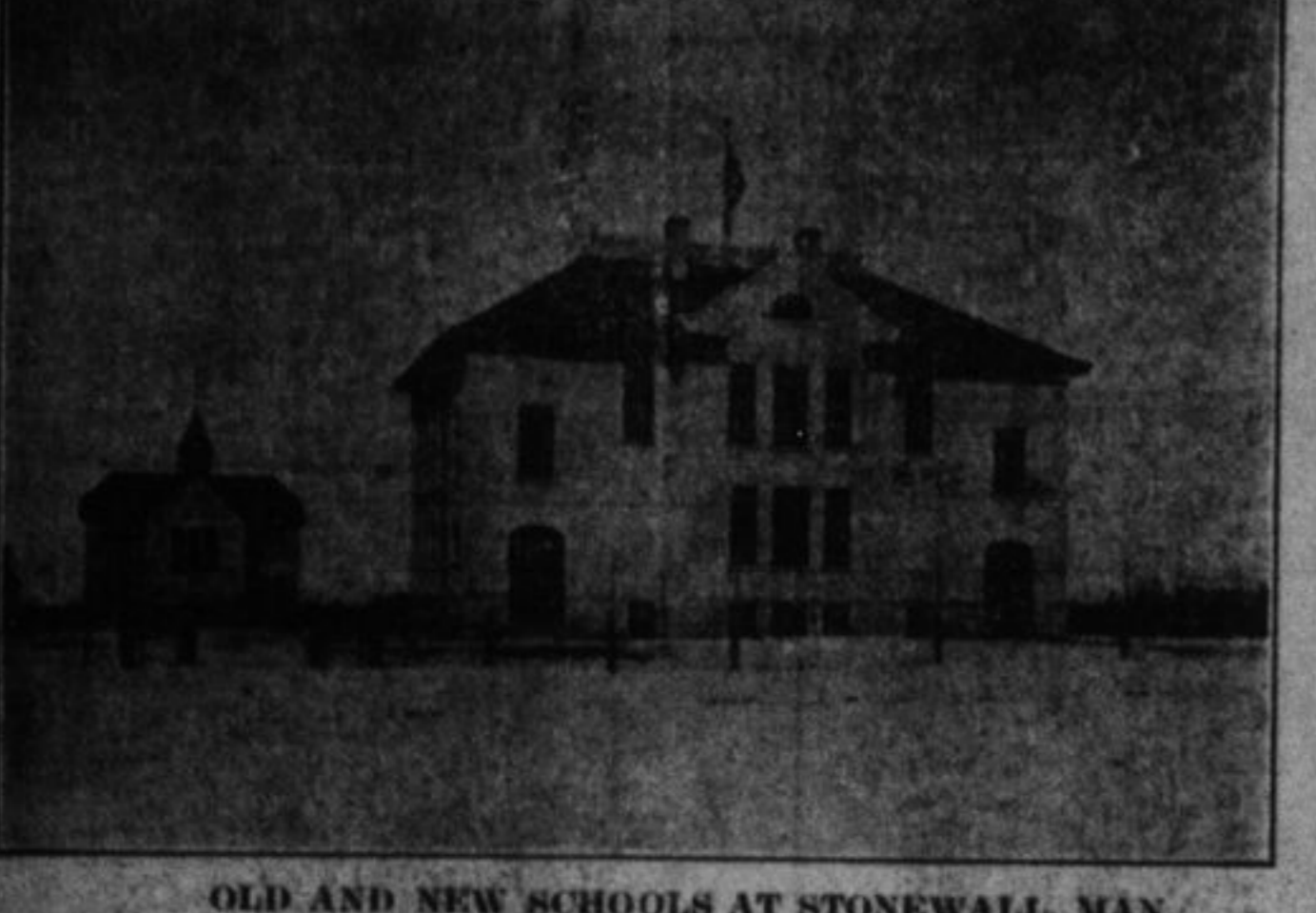
OLD SCHOOLHOUSE, VERMILLION, SASK.



KINGSTON BUILDING (ARTS), QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY.

ing their letters in a stone school-house. The first teachers of Canada, the Recollet Fathers, will in five years be celebrating the three hundredth anniversary of their arrival. The Jesuits had a college in the city of Quebec a year before the foundation of Harvard College in Massachusetts.

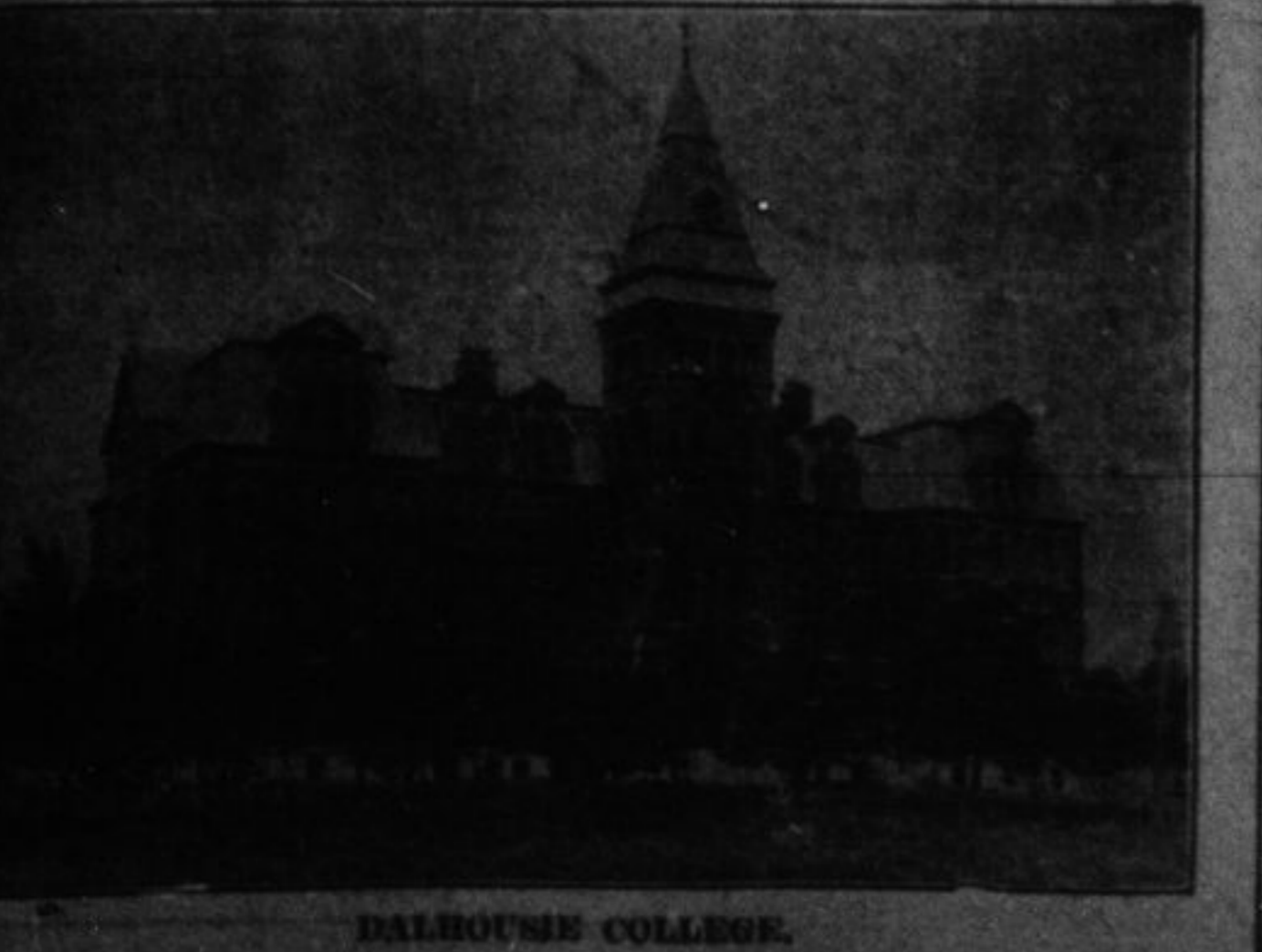
It is somewhat a far cry from these devoted Catholic instructors to the Ontario public school system of the present day—the typical educational system of the dominion, and one which has been the model not only for most of the provinces of Canada, but also for much imitation in the United States and elsewhere. "It may be doubted," says Dr. W. T. Harris, editor of the International Education Series, "whether there is another instance in America of so wise a use of money and supervisory power as is shown in this province of Ontario," in its system of local control and central



OLD AND NEW SCHOOLS AT STONEWALL, MAN.

regulation of the people's schools.

Like the early French schools of Quebec, however, the first educational efforts of the people of Ontario had their origin largely in religious feeling. These early Canadians wanted schools, as their governor and intellectual leader, Simcoe, put it "from which more than from any other source a grateful attachment to his majesty, morality, and religion will be fostered and take root throughout the whole province." As a result largely of Simcoe's efforts, the legislature in 1797 secured the setting apart of large portions of the public lands as a fund for the establishment of grammar schools. From that time the schools of Ontario, and of practically the whole of Canada, have been managed and financed by the people themselves in their own school districts, but regulated and largely aided financially by the central authority. Today the three grammar schools of that time have grown to 5,269 public schools, 663 Catholic separate schools, 145 high schools, and a half dozen of



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