

J. Donald Wilson.

CANADIAN EDUCATION IN THE 1980'S.

Calgary, Alberta: Detselig Enterprises Limited, 1981.

282 pp. \$13.95.

This is a book of readings that has some immediately recognizable assets. Its editor is an established educational historian and no stranger to putting together a collection of articles. In 1977 he co-edited *Precepts, Policy and Process: Perspectives on Contemporary Canadian Education*. If the present work looks familiar, it is because Prof. Wilson has again coaxed contributions from some of the same authors. However, in this instance, familiarity does not breed contempt, as the book includes some of Canada's best-known educational historians and sociologists - Hugh A. Stevenson, George S. Tompkins, Marvin Lazerson, the ethno-historian Cornelius J. Jaenen, and the editor himself.

A book of readings is always vulnerable to criticism. It is open to attack as much for what it includes as for what it leaves out. Canadian Education in the 1980's has, to its credit, touched most bases. The book contains fifteen articles, most of them original and each by a different author on a different subject, which means there is little in the way of annoying overlapping. At the end of each article is a "notes" section and a select bibliography, testifying to the care and effort that went into its preparation as well as steering the reader to further study. And if, as the title implies, the work is centred on present and future developments in Canadian education, it does not do so at the expense of the past. More than a few of the articles proceed on the premise that to understand contemporary issues, the past must first be engaged and explained.

Without attempting to give a grocery list of the readings, there are articles on curriculum trends, education and work multiculturalism, religion and education, language and education in Quebec, community college development, the teaching profession, and adult education. Conspicuous by its absence is any article devoted to university or higher education. To be sure, various aspects of university education are treated in several of the articles, but a more systematic examination is called for.

What do the 1980's hold for Canadian education? Apparently more of the same; that is to say, an extension and deepening of the issues and problems already upon us. Owing to demographic realities, the schools will continue to show declining enrolments at most levels. At the same time the phenomenon of an aging population will trigger new initiatives in adult learning, forcing educators to plan new curricula and to develop appropriate teaching styles. In public education the thrust will be in the

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direction of greater centralization of curriculum, reversing a trend that has prevailed for almost two decades. Financial constraints, a shrinking curriculum, and a concern for declining standards will be factors in this turnabout. At the same time the recent growth in private school enrolment shows no sign of subsiding, as increasing numbers of parents demonstrate a lack of confidence in the ability of the public school to provide a quality education. And as private educational facilities expand, so do demands by those involved for a greater share of the public purse.

Finally, what would Canadian education be without the perennial struggle between federal and provincial authorities? As long as one can remember, the two levels of government have argued over their respective educational roles. In all likelihood the federal government will continue to be heavily involved in education, though the control and administration of schools will remain firmly in the hands of the provinces. The search for an articulated national policy in education will continue.

These and other trends are effectively spelled out in this book of readings, which might well serve as a companion text in an issues course on Canadian education.

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Jerelyn B. Schultz, Ed.
with Penny Ralston, Barbara Rougvie, Margaret Torrie and Jillian Boyd.
SEXUALITY AND THE ADOLESCENT: A Teaching Guide.
Ames, Iowa: The Iowa State University Press, 1981.
260 pp. \$15.95.

Texts on sexuality have over the past ten years been published with the same sort of frequency and in the same kind of numbers as rabbits produce offspring. **Sexuality and the Adolescent** is Module 2 in a series on Contemporary Parenting Choices.

The aim of the module is that adolescents acquire, in sequence, three major competencies: Competency A, where the student can describe how a teenager's concept of self is affected by growth and development in adolescence; Competency B, where the student can explain the influence of interpersonal relationships within and outside the family on sexual attitudes and behaviour during adolescence; and Competency C, where the student can describe the stages of pregnancy and the decisions to be addressed in each. Subsumed under each major competency are