

Chapter VIII

LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITIES

The Present System.

THE public service of education in this country is decentralised, and it is conducted by representative local bodies which are not the agents of the Central Authority. The service is essentially a Local Government service. Although there are a number of governing bodies which conduct State-aided schools and educational institutions, they mostly are, or are coming, under the influence of the Local Education Authorities.

In England and Wales there are 318 Local Education Authorities for elementary education—viz. the Councils of 63 counties, 82 county boroughs, and 173 boroughs and urban districts, having populations of over 10,000 and 20,000 respectively according to the census of 1901.* For higher education there are 145 Local Education Authorities—viz. the Councils of administrative counties (i.e. the area of the geographical county except the areas included in county boroughs) and the Councils of county boroughs. Besides these, 868 boroughs and urban districts inside administrative counties have concurrent but limited powers of spending money on

* Non-county boroughs and urban districts were empowered to relinquish their duties and powers in favour of county Councils, and this has been done in some thirteen cases.