

CHAPTER I.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

67. The Imperial Act, 30 Vic., cap. 3, known as the British North America Act, 1867, defines the Constitution of the Dominion of Canada, which it declares to be similar in principle to that of the United Kingdom. The Executive Government and authority, as well as the command-in-chief of all naval and military forces of and in Canada, are declared to be vested in the Queen, who governs through the person of a Governor-General, appointed by her during pleasure.* Constitution defined.

68. The Governor-General takes no active part in legislation, but governs through a council, known as the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, to which belong all those who are or have been advisers of the Crown. The Executive Committee of the Privy Council consists of those members of the Dominion Parliament who are, for the time being, Ministers of the Crown, either as heads of the various administrative departments, or as members of the Cabinet without portfolio, and who form the Government of the day. Members of the Privy Council are styled Honourable, and for life. The power of dismissing the Ministry, or of removing members of the Privy Council, lies with the Governor-General. The Privy Council.

69. The Governor-General assents in the Queen's name to all measures passed by the Senate and House of Commons, but he may refuse such assent, and may reserve Bills for Her Majesty's consideration. He also has power to disallow Acts of the Provincial Legislatures within one year of their having been passed in the Province. The Governor-General.

70. There is one Parliament for Canada, consisting of the Queen, represented by the Governor-General; an Upper House styled the Senate, the members of which are appointed, and a Lower House, or House of Commons, the members of which are elected. The Parliament.

71. The Senate is composed of persons appointed for life by the Governor-General under the Great Seal of Canada, and each member must possess the following qualifications: he must have passed the age of 30 years; be a British subject, born or naturalized; must reside in the province for which he is appointed, within which also he must be possessed of real property of the value of \$4,000 above all encumbrances, and his real and personal property together must be worth \$4,000, clear of all liabilities. In the Province of Quebec he must either reside or have his real property qualification in the electoral division for which he is appointed. The Senate. Qualifications.

* Six years is, as a rule, the extreme limit of office.