

must sit once every twelve months, the Act of Confederation containing the proviso for an annual session, apart from the usage of voting supplies for one year only.

Members of the legislative councils, where such exist, have property qualifications, but the members of the assemblies need only to be citizens of Canada of full age. These are elected in Ontario on a franchise which is manhood suffrage, qualified only by residence and citizenship. The conditions are practically the same in the other provinces, excepting in Quebec, where the restrictions are somewhat greater.

Members are paid an indemnity which varies from \$800 in Quebec to \$160 in Prince Edward Island, with a mileage rate in some provinces, or actual travelling expenses in others.

The laws providing for the independence of the legislatures and for the prevention of bribery and corruption are fully as strict as those which are in force for Dominion elections. In all cases the courts are the tribunals for the trial of the controverted elections. Dual representation is illegal, except in the case of the Quebec Legislative Council, a member of which may hold a seat in the Senate.

The Act of Union gives the Lieutenant-Governor, as well as the Governor General, the power to "reserve," also to "veto," a Bill when it comes before him.

As respects the revenues of the provinces, they are largely derived from certain annual subsidies receivable from the general government. The Dominion at the Union assumed the debts of the several provinces, agreeing at the same time to pay them an annual subsidy equal to 80 cents per head of the four original provinces, parties to the Confederation pact, as ascertained by the census of 1861, except in the case of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, in which it was arranged that the subsidy should be increased after each decennial census until the population in each province reached 400,000. Besides this subsidy there is given to each province an annual allowance for government and also an annual allowance of interest on the amount of the debt allowed, where the province has not reached the limit of the authorized debt.

Under various readjustments, and under the arrangements by which other provinces entered the Confederation, the provincial debts assumed are as under:—

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Province of Canada | \$62,500,000 |
| Nova Scotia | 8,000,000 |
| New Brunswick | 7,000,000 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$77,500,000 |

Debts subsequently assumed or allowed :

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Nova Scotia (readjustment of 1869) | 1,186,756 |
| The Old Province of Canada (readjustment of 1873) | 10,506,089 |
| Province of Ontario | 2,848,289 |
| “ Quebec | 2,549,214 |
| “ Nova Scotia | 2,343,059 |
| “ New Brunswick | 1,807,720 |
| “ Manitoba | 3,775,606 |
| “ British Columbia | 2,029,392 |
| “ Prince Edward Island | 4,884,023 |
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| | \$31,930,148 |
| Total Provincial debts assumed | \$109,430,148 |