

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

years from the date of the receipt of the act by the Imperial Secretary of State.

Constitution of the Provinces.—The executive powers of the various provinces are dealt with by Sections 58 to 68. They may be generally summed up as follows:—

Each province is to have a lieutenant-governor appointed by the Government of Canada, who shall not be removable from his office within five years from the date of his appointment, except for cause assigned. His salary is fixed from time to time by the Parliament of Canada. At present the Lieutenant-Governors of Quebec and Ontario receive \$10,000 each and those of the other provinces \$9,000 each, except Prince Edward Island's Governor, whose salary is \$7,000. The executive powers and authority of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council are practically exercised under the general principles of responsible government as understood throughout the British Dominions, subject always to the laws of the province in question. In case of the absence, illness or other inability of the Lieutenant-Governor to act, the Governor-General in Council may appoint temporarily an administrator of the office under the same limitations as would apply to a lieutenant-governor.

Legislative Powers of Provinces.—The legislative powers of the four original provinces are (Sec. 146) extended to any other provinces or colonies which may be admitted into the union hereafter. Provision is made (Sec. 147) for the representation of Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland in the Senate in case of their entering the union, and provision is also made for the future admission of the Northwest Territories.

By an Imperial Act entitled the British North America Act, 1871, power is vested in the Parliament of Canada to establish new provinces and provide for the constitution and administration thereof and for their representation in parliament. Parliament is also empowered to alter the boundaries of any province with the consent of the legislature of the province, and also to legislate generally for the territories.

The provinces originally forming the union were Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Ontario and Quebec were one province at the time of the passing of the Act, and were created anew (Sec. 6) out of the old province of Canada. Ontario was provided with a legislature consisting of a lieutenant-governor and one House styled the Legislative Assembly, composed of 82 members, elected by the 82 electoral districts set forth in the first schedule of the Act. The present number of members is 111. The Legislature of Quebec consists of a lieutenant-governor and two Houses, a Legislative Council and a Legislative Assembly. The qualifications for membership in the Council and for the speakership, and the regulations concerning a quorum and voting, with other particulars of organization, are also contained in the Act (Secs. 71-80).

At Confederation, the number of members of the Legislative Assembly of Quebec was settled at 65. The number at present is 81. The election laws in force in Quebec and Ontario at the time of the union continued in force until the respective legislatures otherwise