

The legislatures of each of the three Maritime Provinces, upon entering the union, consisted of the Lieutenant-Governor and of two Houses, styled the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly. These legislatures had the same exclusive powers assigned to them as to the other provinces entering the union at the same or at any subsequent period. One of the most important of these powers is that of the amendment, from time to time, of the Constitution of the province, except as regards the office of the Lieutenant-Governor. Like all the other provinces, they have the power of direct taxation within the province, of borrowing money, of establishing public offices, of disposing of the crown lands of the province, of the maintenance and establishment of a great variety of public and reformatory institutions and of municipalities with such powers as the province may see fit to grant. The list of exclusive provincial powers also includes such important matters as the making of laws relating to licenses for raising revenue for provincial or municipal purposes; providing for local works and undertakings of every description (except certain classes specially reserved to the federal power); incorporating companies with provincial objects; and legislation respecting the solemnization of marriage. The whole vast field of property and civil rights within the province, the administration of justice and the constitution, maintenance and organization of provincial courts with both civil and criminal jurisdiction, as well as the procedure in civil matters in those courts, are retained under provincial jurisdiction.

The exclusive control of each province over the subject of education has given rise to legal and constitutional questions of the highest importance. Their adjustment has engaged the attention of legislatures, of parliament and of the courts of Canada, as well as the privy council of the Mother Country from time to time almost since the day of the union.

The provinces have also legislated upon, and devoted large sums of money to the promotion of agriculture, and to some extent immigration in which they have been assisted by the federal administration, which also has jurisdiction over these subjects. These powers are of course common to all the provinces.

NOVA SCOTIA.

This province has made no organic changes in its constitution since the union in 1867. In 1867, the Legislative Council consisted of 36 members and the Legislative Assembly of 55 members. The number of members of the Legislative Council is now 21 and of the Assembly 43. Legislative councillors are appointed for life, and the members of the Assembly are elected for four years, the Assembly term consisting of that period. The constitutional relations of the ministry to the Assembly are based on the well recognized principles of responsible government, in accordance with which the ministry retains office only so long as it is supported by a majority in the Legislative Assembly. This rule applies to all the provinces of Canada. Many efforts made towards abolishing the Legislative