

and the governments of the period refrained from filling vacancies until the number of members was so reduced that the passage of an abolition act became comparatively an easy matter. The retiring members of the Council retained their title and precedence for life. The Assembly at present is composed of 47 members, and the Executive Council is composed of (1) the Premier, (2) the Minister of Lands and Mines, (3) the Minister of Public Works, (4) the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer, (5) the Minister of Agriculture, (6) the Minister of Public Health, and (7) the Attorney-General. Each of these ministers has a departmental staff under his direction.

The ordinary revenue for the fiscal year ended Oct. 31, 1921, amounted to \$2,892,905 and the ordinary expenditure to \$3,432,512.

In New Brunswick the subject of public instruction is under the management of a Board of Education consisting of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, the members of the Executive Council, the Chancellor of the University of New Brunswick and the Chief Superintendent of Education.

Municipal Institutions.—On the subject of municipal institutions, under which the people have more complete control over their local affairs, the province of New Brunswick has passed through stages of development similar to those of Nova Scotia. An interesting passage will be found in Hannay's History of New Brunswick, where, writing on this subject, he observes:

"Sir William Colebrooke and Sir Edmund Head had both regretted the failure of attempts to establish municipal institutions throughout the province, but they perhaps did not discern that this failure was due to the influence of the magistrates in sessions, who did not like to be deprived of their power of controlling the affairs of the counties. These magistrates naturally resisted every improvement, which they denounced as innovations, and they were supported generally by the Legislative Council.

"The system of county government was as bad as possible, because the magistrates were not responsible to any person. The condition of the county accounts was never made public, and it was not until a comparatively late period in the history of the province that the Grand Jury obtained legislative authority to inspect the county accounts.

"Municipal institutions came in the course of years, but not till long after Sir Edmund Head had taken his departure from the province. Since then the influence of the people upon the municipal government has been strengthened by the incorporation of most of the towns in the province, so that the people have an opportunity not only of knowing how their money is being spent but of directing the expenditure."

In New Brunswick the first municipal act was passed in 1851. This act, which was subsequently amended, rendered incorporation optional. But these acts were not in many cases taken advantage of. The counties were, however, divided into parishes, districts having a certain amount of local autonomy and some limited powers of administration, which have been recognized in subsequent municipal legislation. They are provided with local courts presided over by commissioners who are *ex officio* justices of the peace, and in some cases they are provided with stipendiary or police magistrates. These commissioners have civil jurisdiction in debts not exceeding eighty dollars and in cases of tort when the damages claimed do not exceed thirty-two dollars.