

Each province has in its cabinet a Minister of Public Works, an Attorney-General, a Minister of Agriculture, a Provincial Treasurer, a Minister of Education and a Provincial Secretary. A feature peculiar to the prairie provinces is the Department of Municipal Affairs under the supervision of a Minister in Saskatchewan and Alberta, of a Commissioner in Manitoba. More than one department or sub-department is frequently under one responsible minister.

Legislative Power.—Each province has a Legislature consisting of the Lieutenant-Governor and the Legislative Assembly. There must be a yearly session. Though the Assembly may be dissolved at any time it must not continue longer than a fixed period of years after a general election. Section 92 of the British North America Act enumerates the exclusive powers of the Provincial Legislatures.¹

GROWTH OF MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS.

Manitoba.—The stages in the growth of municipal institutions in the province of Manitoba are marked by the legislation of the years 1871, 1873, 1882 and 1900. In 1871 the County Assessment Act and the Parish Assessment Act made provision for dealing with local finance. The former concerned the tax roll of the province; the latter, purely local improvements and assessments for the parishes within each of the five counties. An Act of 1873 provided for the erection of a local municipality in districts containing not less than 30 freeholders. In 1883 the province was divided into 26 counties and three judicial districts. This Act copied closely the Ontario Act of 1849. In the working out of the Act it was found to be in many particulars unsuited to Western conditions. By the General Municipal Act of 1900 every city, town, village and rural municipality became a body corporate. Over all, excepting cities having separate charters of incorporation, of which there are three, Winnipeg, St. Boniface and Portage-la-Prairie, is the general supervision of a Department of Municipal Affairs, presided over by a Minister of the executive government called "The Municipal Commissioner." By legislation enacted in 1921 a "Tax Commission" was established in the province; its chief duties are to improve the character of municipal assessment throughout the province, especially in rural areas, which theretofore had been lax, unfair between ratepayers, and unreliable for general statistical purposes.

Northwest Territories (Saskatchewan and Alberta).—As early as 1884 we find among the Ordinances of the Northwest Territories one "respecting Municipalities." This contained provisions for the establishment of certain rural municipalities and the municipalities of the town of Regina, the town of Moosejaw, etc. Only a limited number of rural municipalities found practical existence under this Ordinance, which was planned on principles similar to those of the older provinces. In 1896 legislation was passed de-organizing certain of the rural municipalities where the system proved unpopular. In

¹ See page 6 for a résumé of the powers of the Provincial Legislatures.