

4.—Duration and Sessions of Dominion Parliaments, 1867-1932—concluded.

Number of Parliament.	Session.	Date of Opening.	Date of Prorogation.	Days of Session.	Elections, Writs Returnable, Dissolutions and Lengths of Parliaments. ⁷
14th Parliament.....	1st	Mar. 8, 1922	June 28, 1922	113	Dec. 6, 1921. ³
	2nd	Jan. 31, 1923	June 30, 1923	151	Jan. 14, 1922. ⁴
	3rd	Feb. 28, 1924	July 19, 1924	143	Sept. 5, 1925. ⁵
	4th	Feb. 5, 1925	June 27, 1925	143	3 y., 7 m., 26 d. ⁶
15th Parliament.....	1st	Jan. 7, 1926	July 2, 1926	177 ¹	Oct. 29, 1925. ³
					Dec. 7, 1925. ⁴
16th Parliament.....	1st	Dec. 9, 1926	April 14, 1927	73 ²	July 2, 1926. ⁵
	2nd	Jan. 26, 1928	June 11, 1928	138	208 d. ⁶
	3rd	Feb. 7, 1929	June 14, 1929	128	Sept. 14, 1926. ³
	4th	Feb. 20, 1930	May 30, 1930	100	Nov. 2, 1926. ⁴
17th Parliament.....	1st	Sept. 8, 1930	Sept. 22, 1930	15	3 y., 7 m., 0 d. ⁶
	2nd	Mar. 12, 1931	Aug. 3, 1931	145	July 28, 1930. ⁵
	3rd	Feb. 4, 1932			Aug. 18, 1930. ⁶

¹Including days (13) of adjournment from Mar. 3 to Mar. 15. ²Not including days (54) of adjournment from Dec. 15 to Feb. 8. ³Period of general elections. ⁴Writs returnable. ⁵Dissolution of Parliament. ⁶Duration of Parliament in years, months and days. The life of a Parliament is counted from the date of return of election writs to the date of dissolution, both days inclusive. ⁷The ordinary legal limit of duration for each Parliament is five years.

A brief résumé of the history of parliamentary representation follows. Attention may be drawn to the growth in the number of members of both the Senate and the House of Commons since Confederation and to the greatly increased unit of representation in the Lower House.

Subsection 3.—The Senate.

The British North America Act, 1867, provides in sections 21 and 22 that "the Senate shall consist of seventy-two members, who shall be styled Senators. In relation to the constitution of the Senate, Canada shall be deemed to consist of three divisions—(1) Ontario; (2) Quebec; (3) The Maritime Provinces, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; which three divisions shall be equally represented in the Senate as follows:—Ontario by twenty-four senators; Quebec by twenty-four senators; and the Maritime Provinces by twenty-four senators, twelve thereof representing New Brunswick and twelve thereof representing Nova Scotia. In the case of Quebec, each of the twenty-four senators representing the province shall be appointed for one of the electoral divisions of Lower Canada specified in schedule A to Chapter I of the Consolidated Statutes of Canada". Further, under section 147 of the same Act, it is provided that "in case of the admission to Confederation of Newfoundland or Prince Edward Island, each shall be entitled to a representation in the Senate of four members". "Prince Edward Island when admitted shall be deemed to be comprised in the third of the three divisions into which Canada is divided by this Act" and on its admission "the representation of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick shall, as vacancies occur, be reduced from twelve to ten members respectively". In case of the admission of Newfoundland, the normal membership of the Senate of 72 members was to be increased to 76, while the maximum number of 78 (sec. 28) was to be 82, sec. 26 containing a provision for the appointment of three or six additional members in certain cases, to represent equally the three divisions of Canada.