

MARITIME PROVINCES.

Act; (4) crown lands and other fees and dues paid in to the Provincial Secretary's office. In 1915 the total revenue from all sources was \$3,154,359, including \$1,000,000 temporary loan and \$100,000 loan for war distress.

Municipal Institutions.—Municipal administration in Nova Scotia has been developed since Confederation. Previous to that event the local government of counties and townships was confided to the magistracy, which was an appointed body, holding their commissions for life and not responsible in any way to the electorate. In the early years of its history this body did much useful and important public service, yet abuses here and there existed on account of the irresponsible nature of their tenure of office, which rendered reform and public accountability very difficult to obtain. Public opinion, however, and the controlling influence of the legislatures operating steadily upon even irresponsible bodies of life-appointed magistrates made the institution as it existed fairly acceptable to the people generally. In 1864 an act providing for the optional incorporation of counties and townships was passed, but few counties or districts took advantage of the privilege thus accorded. In 1875, the incorporation of the counties and certain townships was made compulsory, twenty-four municipalities being then established. In 1895, the Towns Incorporation Act was passed making the incorporation of towns throughout the province optional. At the present time thirty-eight towns are incorporated.

The county councils consist of councillors elected by the ratepayers, usually one for each polling district, but in some districts two are provided for. The warden or presiding officer is chosen each year by the council. The mayor of the town is elected by the ratepayers and holds office for two years. The city of Halifax, the capital of the province, has a special charter, the mayor being elected annually and the eighteen aldermen (or members) for three years, six retiring each year but being eligible for re-election.

The establishment of these municipal institutions gave a great impetus to local improvements, and although the rate and amount of taxation were considerably increased, the credit of the towns and municipalities is excellent. The total assessed valuation of real and personal property of the twenty-four municipalities of Nova Scotia is not less than \$42,717,000 and of the incorporated towns over \$40,000,000, to which must be added the property owned by the municipalities and towns themselves, amounting to over \$3,000,000. The total liabilities (bonded and other debts) of the municipalities are about \$1,000,000, and of the towns about \$6,500,000.

The exercise of the powers of the councils, the election of their members and the duties and responsibilities of their officials, their meetings, proceedings and by-laws, their methods and forms of taxation, as well as the limitation of their borrowing powers, are controlled and regulated in each particular by statutes rigidly enforced by provincial authority or by the courts. The training of large numbers of public spirited citizens in the practical exercise of the duties of self-government