

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF CANADA.

Judicial.—Justice is administered in British Columbia by a court of appeal, composed of a chief justice and four puisne judges; a supreme court, comprising a chief justice and five puisne judges; and ten local county courts, each with one judge, except that of Vancouver, which has three. There are also minor courts with criminal jurisdiction held by stipendiary magistrates, police magistrates and justices of the peace and magistrates having civil jurisdiction under the "Small Debts Act." Victoria and Vancouver have juvenile courts.

Police.—In addition to the local police maintained by the municipalities, there is a body of provincial police with general jurisdiction, which maintains order in the unorganized districts, looks after the Indians, renders assistance to local authorities in the pursuit of criminals and performs other services required in a pioneer country. These are directly under the control of the Attorney-General's Department.

Provincial Taxes.—British Columbia imposes direct taxation to a greater extent than any other province, and has received from this source as much as \$1,200,000 in a year. These taxes include a small assessment on improved property outside of incorporated municipalities, an assessment of four p.c. on assessed value on wild land (which tax is intended to encourage improvement and settlement), a progressive income tax, taxes on corporations, succession duties and certain license fees.

Agriculture.—The Department of Agriculture is organized with a minister, a deputy minister and various heads of branches, including live-stock commissioner, provincial horticulturist, instructor in poultry raising, inspector of fruit pests, market commissioner, cold storage commissioner, veterinary inspector, dairy instructor, seed commissioner and plant pathologist.

Farm Credit.—In 1916 an Agricultural Credit Commission was established, with authority to advance money by way of loan to farmers on the security of their holdings, for the purpose of clearing and improving their properties, providing buildings and equipment. This advance is to be repaid in instalments, with interest at a rate sufficient to meet the charge on Government bonds and cost of management.

Lands, Etc.—The Department of Lands is under a minister and deputy minister, a surveyor-general, chief forester, geographer, irrigation supervisors and other officials. It maintains a forest protection service, with a staff of rangers to guard against the destruction of timber by fires. By the co-operation of the lumber interests, this protection includes public and private property. Land has heretofore been sold for agricultural purposes to applicants at prices which have been gradually raised. From time to time areas have been withdrawn and reserved for pre-emption or homesteads. By legislation of 1916, the lands previously sold on deferred payments, on which unpaid amounts remained, reverted to the crown to the extent of the part unpaid for, and are held as homesteads for returned soldiers.

Fisheries.—The administration of the fisheries is under the control of the Finance Department, which, among other things, regulates the fish canneries, the inland fisheries, and, in co-operation with the federal