

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF CANADA.

authorized by provincial legislation. All the larger cities retain the ward system. Vancouver, which is the largest city, has reduced its council to eight members, one elected by and from each ward. The municipal franchise for ordinary purposes is open to adult male residents and to female householders and real estate owners. Only assessed owners of real estate, male and female, may vote on money by-laws. Such by-laws are necessary for expenditures beyond the ordinary revenue requiring the issue of debentures. They require the majority of three-fifths of the votes cast.

The chief executive of a district municipality is the reeve. In most other respects the district municipality is similar to the city government. In cities the police are under the authority of a commission, composed of the mayor and two members appointed by the provincial Government, one of whom must be chosen from the members of the city council. Under general legislation liquor licenses in cities are controlled by a commission appointed in the same way as a police commission, but special legislation for Vancouver establishes a commission of five, of whom the mayor is one member, and half the others are appointed by the Government and half chosen by the citizens at the annual election.

While the general municipal system is established by common legislation, several municipalities have secured large modifications by special enactment. Each has its own system of assessment and taxation. Vancouver, for example, levies its taxes on real estate values, exempting all improvements, and makes no assessment on personal property or income.

Provincial legislation provides for civic administration of parks. Some cities have an elective board of park commissioners, with control of the public gardens, parks, bathing beaches and open spaces. Some maintain free public libraries, museums and other institutions with public grants.
