

era, under which the influence of the French Canadians became stronger than ever. It is a well known fact that many of the ablest public men who brought about the confederation of the provinces were favourable to a legislative union, but it was strenuously resisted by the French Canadians, who naturally preferred a system which enables them to have entire control of their provincial affairs and at the same time gives them great power in the central government. Under the federal constitution they have a Provincial Government, composed of a Lieutenant-Governor, appointed by the Governor-General in Council, and advised by an Executive Council, who hold office in accordance with the principles of responsible government. The Legislature consists of two Houses, a Legislative Council of twenty-four members appointed by the Crown, and a Legislative Assembly of sixty-five members elected by the people—the number in each House being the same as in the Senate and House of Commons of the Dominion Parliament. This local government has the control of education, of the management and sale of public lands and the timber thereon, of hospitals, asylums, and charities, of municipal institutions, of local works and undertakings, of the solemnization of marriage in the province, of property and civil rights, of the administration of justice including the constitution, maintenance and organization of provincial courts, both of civil and criminal jurisdiction, and generally of all matters of a merely local or private nature. With respect to education the constitution expressly provides for the preservation of the rights of the dissentient Protestant schools in the province, and any laws made by the province cannot 'prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to denominational schools' which any class of persons had by law in the province at the time of the Union. In the Parliament of the Dominion the interests of the French Canadians are carefully watched by the large and influential body of representatives they have in the Senate and House of Commons, which have jurisdiction on all matters of general or national import, such as trade and commerce, postal communications, inter-provincial or international railways, militia or defence. In both the Parliament of the Dominion and the Legislature of Quebec, the representatives