

few able and practical men to parliament. On an effective system of local self-government rests in a very considerable degree the satisfactory working of our whole provincial organization. It brings men into active connection with the practical side of the life of a community and educates them for a larger though not more useful sphere of public life.

*Political organization of the Territories.*—The Government of the Dominion now holds complete jurisdiction over the Territories. The provisional district of Keewatin was formed some years ago out of the eastern portion until the settlement of the boundary dispute between Ontario and the Dominion, but since that difficulty was adjusted it has only a nominal existence, though it still remains under the government of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Manitoba. In 1882 a large portion of the North-West was divided into the four districts of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Athabasca, for postal and other purposes. Beyond these districts lies an unorganized and relatively unknown region, watered by the Peace, Slave, and Mackenzie Rivers.

Until the winter of 1888, the Territories were governed by a Lieutenant-Governor and Council, partly nominated by the Governor-General in council and partly elected by the people. In the session of 1888, the Parliament of Canada passed an Act granting the Territories a legislative assembly of twenty-two members, but they do not yet enjoy responsible government like the Provinces. The Lieutenant-Governor, who is appointed by the Governor in council for four years, has, however, the right of choosing from the assembly, four members to act as an advisory council in matters of finance. Three of the Judges of the Territories sit in the assembly as legal experts, to give their opinion on legal and constitutional questions as they arise, but while they may take part in the debates they cannot vote. The assembly has a duration of three years and is called together at such times as the Lieutenant-Governor appoints. It elects its own speaker and is governed by rules and usages similar to those that prevail