

matters as are of a provincial or municipal character. This government, is, however, supreme in all those matters over which it has been given an exclusive jurisdiction by the constitution, and not expressly or by clear implication given to the dominion or central authority which presides over the whole of the united provinces. This central authority consists of a Governor-General, representing the Queen; of a privy council, responsible to the peoples' representatives, and of a parliament of two Houses; a Senate or Upper Chamber, appointed by the Crown for life, and a House of Commons elected by the people of the whole Dominion, in their respective provinces. This government has jurisdiction over militia and defence, all customs and excise duties, fisheries, marine, hospitals, navigation and shipping, light houses, dominion railways, and all matters of national importance. The constitution is essentially limited. In the first place, the powers of the general government are restricted in as much as they can pass no acts which are in conflict with Imperial rights and interests, or infringe on the clearly defined jurisdiction of the local governments. These latter, on the other hand, are restrained to legislation on such subjects as are expressly set forth in the Constitutional Act. As must be the case with every written constitution, conflicts of jurisdiction arise from time to time in consequence of the doubtful construction, of certain parts of the British North American Act; but these doubts are being gradually set at rest, by the decisions of the judicial tribunals of the Dominion and of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council of England as the court of last resort for the whole Empire. The highest Court of Canada is the Supreme Court in which the majority of such controversies are decided, as appeals to the Privy Council are limited in practice and only necessary under exceptionally important circumstances. The people have, very justly, great confidence in their courts; for it is a matter of pride with Canada that her judiciary has been on the whole composed of men of integrity and learning. The judges of all the courts are appointed by the dominion government and are, as in England, only removable by the Governor-General in Council on an address from the two Houses of Parliament.

The people are able to exercise an immediate influence on the administration of public affairs by means of the liberal franchise which exists throughout the Dominion. In the cities, towns and rural districts practically every tax payer is able to vote for the wardens, mayors, reeves, aldermen, and municipal councillors generally. Each province has a franchise for the Assembly extremely liberal