

Our Country.

GENERAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

The Dominion of Canada is a Confederation, consisting of the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. The Legislature of the Province of Newfoundland has recently passed resolutions for admittance into the Union, which will be laid before the people of that Island, and before the end of the present year (1869), it is probable that it will become a part of the Confederation. Arrangements are being made, by which it is anticipated that at no distant day, the Dominion will acquire the whole of the Hudson's Bay Territory, and that Vancouver's Island and British Columbia will enter into the Confederation, which will then consist of the whole of British North America.

The Government is partly federal and partly local, there being a Federal Government and Legislature for the whole Dominion, and each Province having a distinct Local Government and Legislature for local affairs.

The General Government consists of a Governor-General, nominated by the Crown of Great Britain, and a Cabinet as the Executive; the Legislature consists of an upper house, called the Senate, and a lower house, called the House of Commons. The Senate numbers 72 members—24 from Ontario, 24 from Quebec, 12 from New Brunswick, and 12 from Nova Scotia. The House of Commons numbers 182, apportioned to each Province according to population, as follows, viz. :—82 from Ontario, 65 from Quebec, 19 from Nova Scotia, and 15 from New Brunswick. The seat of Government is Ottawa, a city of about 20,000 inhabitants, situated on the river of that name.

The Local Government of Ontario is as follows :—A Lieutenant-Governor, an Executive Council, and a Legislative Assembly.

The officers of the Government are at present as follows :—

Lieutenant-Governor—The Hon. Wm. P. Howland, C. B.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Premier and Attorney-General—Hon. John S. Macdonald.

Commissioner of Crown Lands—Hon. Stephen Richards.

Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works—Hon. John Carling.

Secretary and Registrar—Hon. Matthew C. Cameron.

Treasurer—Hon. Edmund B. Wood.

The Legislative Assembly consists of 82 members, representing 82 electoral districts. It is to be elected every four years, unless sooner dissolved, and must sit at least once in each year. Toronto is the seat of Government.

The franchise is limited to male persons of the age of 21 years, being British subjects, and being owner, tenant, or occupant of real property (that is land or houses) of the actual value in

cities, of \$400, equal to £80 stg.; in towns, of \$300, or £60 stg.; and in villages and townships, of \$200, or £40 stg.

Aliens cannot vote at elections, but they can acquire land, and can, after a residence of three years, upon going through certain formalities, become naturalized, and so entitled to all the privileges of British subjects.

In respect to its Government, Canada is second to no country in the world, if indeed it be equalled by any. It appears to combine the advantages of a limited monarchy with the best features of a republic.

MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS.

The settled portions of Ontario is divided into 42 counties, which are subdivided into townships, for the purpose of local self-government. This is effected by city, town, and township councils, elected annually. These councils have power to levy, by direct taxation, rates and tolls for the purpose of local improvements, such as roads, bridges, harbours, drainage, &c.

ONTARIO—GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND STATISTICS.

The Province of Ontario is situate to the north of the River St. Lawrence, and the great lakes, Ontario, Erie, Huron, and Superior. The River Ottawa, a noble stream, divides it from the Province of Quebec. Its northerly and westerly boundaries are by no means well defined, so that its area can be given only approximately. However, it may be safely assumed at about 121,260 square miles, equal to 77,606,400 acres, or almost exactly the same as that of Great Britain and Ireland. The population of that Kingdom is upwards of 30 millions. It would therefore appear that after making due allowance for difference of climate and soil, Ontario could well sustain a population of at least 10 millions. Its actual population at different periods will appear from the following table:—

1830.....	210,437	By census.
1841.....	465,357	do.
1851.....	952,004	do.
1861.....	1,396,091	do.
1869.....	1,962,067	Estimated.

It will be seen, from the above figures, that its present population is about ten times what it was 40 years ago, a rate of increase considerably greater than that of the United States during the same time. The figures also show that its present population of about 2,000,000 is only a fifth of that which it is probably capable of supporting, so that there is still ample room for a large immigration.

The soil of the country varies in different localities, a very large proportion being of the very best description for agricultural purposes. The natural advantages of Ontario are very great; its internal water communication by means of the great lakes is unsurpassed; in mineral wealth, it has been pronounced by com-