

of passing, within certain defined limits, such ordinances as are necessary for the good government and security of the sparsely settled countries under its jurisdiction.* In accordance with a law recently passed, these territories are now, for the first time, represented in the Dominion Parliament—another step in the direction of the more perfect organization and development of the North-west territories. These representatives have all the rights and privileges of members of the organized provinces, and are not the mere territorial delegates of the United States Congress. The central or general government of the Dominion is administered by a governor-general, with the assistance of a privy council, a parliament, composed of a senate appointed by the crown, and a house of commons elected under an electoral franchise—practically on the very threshold of universal suffrage. This government has jurisdiction over trade and commerce, post-office, militia and defense, navigation and shipping, fisheries, railways and public works, of a Dominion character, and all other matters of general or national import. The appointment of a governor-general by the crown, the power of disallowing bills which may interfere with imperial obligations, and the right which Canadians still enjoy of appealing to the judicial committee of the privy council, from the subordinate courts of the provinces, including the supreme court of Canada;† the obligation which rests upon England to assist the colony in the time of danger, by all the power of her army and fleet, together with the fact that all treaties with foreign powers must be necessarily negotiated through the imperial authorities, will be considered as the most patent evidences of Canada being still a dependency of the empire. Even the restraint imposed upon Canada with respect to any matters involving negotiations with foreign powers, has been modified to a great degree by the fact that England has always acknowledged, for over thirty years, that Canada should be not only consulted in every particular, but actually represented in all negotiations that may be carried on with foreign powers, affecting her commercial or territorial interests.‡ From this brief historical summary of the leading features of the political organization of Canada it will be seen how remarkable has been the expansion of the liberties of the people since 1837, when they exercised no control over the Executive,

* In the session of 1886, by 49 Vict., c. 24.

† A Supreme Court of Canada was established in 1875 by 38 Vict., c. 11. Lord Durham, in his *Report*, recommended the establishment of such a court, p. 101.

‡ For instance, in the Reciprocity Treaty between the United States and the B. N. A. Provinces, Lord Elgin, Governor-General, with Mr. Hincks, then Prime Minister, conducted the negotiations on behalf of Canada at Washington.—Dent's *Canada*, ii., 284. In the Washington Treaty of 1871, Canada was represented by Sir John A. Macdonald. *Ibid.*, p. 511.