

and contractors with the Government are forbidden to sit in Parliament, an exception being made, as in England, of officers in the military service.

Since 1874 the House has given up its jurisdiction over the trial of controverted elections, which previously had been considered by committees. The courts in the several Provinces are now the tribunals for the trial of all such contested elections.

The laws for the prevention of bribery and corruption are strict, and members are frequently unseated for trivial breaches of the law, committed by their agents through ignorance or carelessness. The election expenses of candidates must be published by their legal agents after election. The whole intent of the law is to make elections as economical as possible, and prevent all kinds of corruption. A candidate may be disqualified from sitting in the Commons or voting, or holding any office in the gift of the Crown for seven years, when he is proved personally guilty of bribery.

The classes of subjects respecting which the Parliament of Canada may exclusively make laws are set forth in the preceding section of this report, and therefore need not again be enumerated. The fullest discussion is allowed on all questions, and the Houses have never been compelled by obstruction as in England, to resort to "closure" of debate. As previously stated, either the English or French language may be used in debate. The Standing Committees of the Commons are few in number, and include: 1st, the Committee of Public Accounts; 2nd, the Committee of Agriculture and Colonization; 3rd, the Committee of Privileges and Elections,—and four Committees to which all Private Bills respecting Banking and Commerce, Navigation and Shipping, Railways and Canals, Telephone and Telegraph lines, Bridges, Insurance and the Incorporation of Companies for other purposes are referred. There are also two Committees on which members from the two Houses sit to consider the printing of documents and the management of the Library, which are matters of common interest and care. The publication of the Debates of the House of Commons is under the control of a Special Committee of the House. The membership of these bodies varies in number from 26 to over 160 members. The most numerous is the Railway Committee which has 164 members; Agriculture and Colonization, 106; Banking and Commerce, 104; Miscellaneous Private Bills, 75. The committees are appointed by a Committee of Selection, on which the Government of the day has a majority, and both sides of the House are fully represented.

The House holds daily sittings during the Session of Parliament, commencing at 3 p.m. (Saturdays excepted, unless otherwise ordered), and, as in the Senate, the proceedings commence with prayer, read, alternately in English and French, by the Speaker. The order of business laid daily on the desk of each member is divided into Government Orders, Public Bills and Orders, and Private Bills, besides Questions put to the Government, and Notices of Motion, all of which are taken upon particular days, in accordance with the rules of the House. Certain days are set apart for the Government business, and others for private members but near the close of the Session the Government control every day in the week. The Private Bills, which always outnumber the Public and Government measures, are presented and passed in conformity with special rules, which do not apply to the other classes. The Crown, with the advice of the Privy Council, recommends all appropriations of public money. All measures of taxation can only be introduced by Ministers of the Crown, and must be shown necessary for the public service. The Speaker of the Commons, who, like the Speaker of the Senate, receives a salary of \$4,000 per annum, is elected by the majority at the opening of a new Parliament, and holds office until Parliament is dissolved or he resigns. He presides at all sittings of the House, and, in his absence at any time, is replaced by a Deputy Speaker, or Chairman of Committees, who is elected from the members of the House, in like manner to the Speaker, at the commencement of a new Parliament. The latter also is paid an annual salary amounting in his case to \$2,000. The Speaker and four members of the Privy Council sitting in the Commons, compose a Commission, annually appointed, for regulating the Internal Economy of the House, the