

returnable on the 24th December, *except those for Gaspé and Saguenay*, which were made returnable on the 2nd February, 1852. Yet Parliament was formally called for the 24th December. But did anybody dream of the House proceeding to business on that day while the elections for the excepted districts had not come off? The Legislature, after several prorogations, was at length summoned 'for the despatch of business' on the 19th August, 1852. The Gaspé election was held on the 24th January, 1852, and the Saguenay election on the 26th January, 1852, the returns being received on the 4th and 9th February respectively, or after Parliament had been twice formally prorogued as above described. In 1854 the writs were returnable on the 10th August, except Saguenay and Gaspé, and Chicoutimi and Tadoussac, which were returnable on the 1st September. Yet Parliament was formally summoned for the 10th August. But no one, we may be sure, supposed it could actually meet with Gaspé and Saguenay, and Chicoutimi and Tadoussac still to be heard from. Parliament was prorogued to the 5th Sept., when it was called together 'for the despatch of business.' The excepted returns were made as follows:—

| | Return of Members. | Receipt of Returns. |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Gaspé | Aug. 21 | Aug. 31 |
| Chicoutimi and Tadoussac .. | Aug. 22 | Aug. 25 |
| Saguenay | Aug. 4 | Aug. 28 |

So that, although there was a meeting of Parliament very early after the elections, care was taken that the three remote constituencies should be afforded the opportunity of being represented. In 1857 the writs generally were made returnable on the 13th January, 1858, and those for Gaspé, and Chicoutimi and Saguenay, and Charlevoix, on the 10th of February. But Parliament was formally summoned to meet on the 13th January. It was prorogued, first to the 18th February, and then to the 25th February, when it met 'for the despatch

of business.' The excepted elections took place after the day named in the formal proclamation for the meeting of Parliament as follows:—

| | Return of Members. | Receipt of Returns. |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Gaspé | Jan. 13 | Feb. 3 |
| Chicoutimi and Saguenay .. | Jan. 28 | Feb. 9 |
| Charlevoix | Jan. 19 | Jan. 27 |

Here again, although an early meeting took place, ample time was allowed to elapse between that event and the latest returns. In 1861 the writs were made returnable on the 15th July, except those for Gaspé, and Chicoutimi and Saguenay, which were made returnable on the 31st August. But Parliament was, as usual, called for the earlier day, namely, the 15th July, although only to be several times prorogued, being ultimately summoned 'for the despatch of business' on the 20th March, 1862. The excepted elections took place as follows:—

| | Return of Members. | Receipt of Returns. |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Chicoutimi and Saguenay .. | July 16 | July 22 |
| Gaspé | July 22 | July 29 |

In 1863 the writs were returnable on the 3rd July, except Gaspé, and Chicoutimi and Saguenay, which were returnable on the 15th July. But Parliament was formally called for the 3rd July, and, having been twice prorogued, met on the 15th August 'for the despatch of business.' The excepted elections were held as follows:—

| | Return of Members. | Receipt of Returns. |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Chicoutimi and Saguenay .. | July 14 | July 20 |
| Gaspé | July 20 | July 27 |

Thus, during the whole history of United Canada, from the Union in 1841 to the last Parliament before Confederation, we find (1) that it was the all but invariable custom to issue a formal proclamation summoning Parliament to meet on the day on which the main body of the writs were returnable, and (2) that in no single instance was Parliament convened 'for the despatch of business' until the time for holding and