

trivial local matters were permitted under the rule of the French Kings. Whilst the people of New England were discussing their affairs in the fullest manner in their township meeting, the French Canadian was ignorant of the very meaning of the great heritage of local government peculiar to the Teutonic races. An incomplete system of parliamentary government was conceded in 1792 to Canada, and then commenced the struggle which practically lasted until 1854 for the establishment of responsible government which would give to the people the fullest control over their local affairs with as little interference as possible from the parent State. In 1840 the British government relaxed its parental authority and adopted a policy which eventually gave the people complete jurisdiction over all matters except those which affected Imperial interests and obligations. In 1867 the Imperial authorities cheerfully responded to the aspirations of the people for a larger sphere of political activity, and passed the constitution which now unites the provinces in a federal union, which combines many of the best features of the American system with those principles of British constitutional government which seem well adapted to their political condition. Canada now possesses political institutions which allow abundant scope to the capacity of the people for self-government. At the base of these institutions lies the municipal system which enables the owners and occupants of property in every district defined by law to tax themselves for the support of schools, roads, and public improvements of every kind. Many abuses have at times arisen in some of the large centres of population on account of unsuitable persons obtaining positions in the municipal councils, but the remedy always rests with the people themselves at the polls. On the whole the system works satisfactorily and enables the people to make all necessary local improvements. Then going a step higher we find the people represented in provincial assemblies whose duties and functions are defined and limited by the Constitutional Act.

The provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia are governed by a lieutenant governor, appointed by the Governor-General of Canada in Council; an Executive Council holding office as long as it retains the confidence of a majority in the peoples' house; a legislature consisting of a Legislative Council and an Assembly in four, and of an Assembly only in three provinces. This provincial Government has control of certain enumerated matters affecting civil rights and property, education, local works, and such other