

in the Constitution by which a Parliament in this Province can be extended beyond five years. If Parliament, at the time of the Sovereign's death, be separated by adjournment or prorogation, it must assemble immediately, or within a reasonable period. If no parliament be then in existence, the members of the last must again meet, and may serve as a parliament for six months, unless sooner prorogued.

LAW CLERKS.—It is necessary to mention these officers in particular, because the Rules of the House assign to them and the translators certain duties which must be performed, to ensure correct Legislation. It is laid down as the duty of the Law Clerk to revise all public Bills after their first reading, and to certify thereon that the same are correct; and in every subsequent stage of such Bills, the Law Clerk shall be responsible for the correctness of said Bills, should they be amended. The responsibility is increased by the fact of all Bills having to be printed in both languages, English and French, before they can be disposed of. The House is particularly fortunate in having the whole of this staff, Law Clerks and translators, most efficient.

ORDER.—By this word is meant an obedience to certain rules and regulations intended to facilitate the dispatch of business, and preserve that necessary decorum so essential in all deliberative assemblies. The Rules by which the business of Parliament is conducted are of two kinds; one class the House possesses in common with all deliberative assemblies—another is peculiar to its own existence and powers. For the proper application of all these rules, the Speaker's or Chairman's decision is had, and to this decision due deference is at all times paid. The Speaker, while in the Chair, takes no part in the debate, it being his duty to regulate the manner in which business shall be transacted; to confine those members who address the House to the subject under consideration; to give his opinion upon all things which relate to order; to put the matter in dispute into the form of a question upon which the votes of members are taken, and to declare the majority as soon as it is communicated to him by the Clerk. It is also his duty to declare the business of the House closed, and to see that the affairs of the House are correctly and properly recorded. After routine, he calls upon the member whose motion stands first on the paper of notices, or who is otherwise entitled to precedence. All motions must be seconded, or they fall to the ground; being seconded, the motion is handed in writing to the Speaker, who has to read it before debate can be had upon it—having been read, objections may be urged. There are several ways by which a motion may be opposed; it may be met by a direct negative, or by an amendment, or by a motion to postpone, or by proceeding to the next order of the day, or by moving the previous question, or by the simple motion of adjournment. A motion once read cannot be withdrawn without the permission of the House. It must not be forgotten that unless a speech is made objecting to a motion, neither mover nor seconder can speak a second time, except in explanation. If, however, a debate does arise, in which an opposition is given to the mover of a motion, he has the right of reply; but it must be understood that this privilege does not belong to the mover of an amendment. All are permitted to explain. The debate being ended, the Speaker or Chairman puts the question, and calls upon those in favor to say "Aye," and those of a contrary opinion to say "No." He then declares that in his opinion the "Ayes" or the "Noes" (as the case may be) have it. If his decision is questioned, the House divides, the "Ayes" rising and their names being taken down; the "Noes" following; the numbers are counted from the record, and declared. When an amendment has been moved, the vote is simply taken on the amendment, and then on the original question. Should the amendment be adopted, it then becomes the substantive motion, and may be amended in the same way that the original motion was amended. Thus a number of successive amendments to the original motion may be disposed of. Any member is at liberty to interrupt another by "rising to order;" which means that he rises in his place, and calls the attention of the Chair and the