

Similarly, of course, Parliament cannot take over any power of a provincial legislature, nor could Parliament expel any province from the federation.

Parliament and the provincial legislatures both have power over agriculture, immigration and over certain aspects of natural resources; but if their laws conflict, the national law prevails.

Parliament and the provincial legislatures also have power over old age, disability and survivors' pensions; but if their laws conflict, the provincial power prevails.

By virtue of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, everything not mentioned as belonging to the provincial legislatures comes under the national Parliament.

This looks like an immensely wide power. It is not, in fact, as wide as it looks because the courts have interpreted the provincial powers, especially "property and civil rights," as covering a very wide field. As a result, all labour legislation (maximum hours, minimum wages, safety, worker's compensation, industrial relations) comes under provincial law, except for certain industries such as banking, broadcasting, air navigation, atomic energy, shipping, interprovincial and international railways, telephones, telegraphs, pipelines, grain elevators, enterprises owned by the national government, and works declared by Parliament to be for the general advantage of Canada or of two or more of the provinces. Social security (except for unemployment insurance, which is purely national, and the shared power over pensions) comes under the provinces. However, the national Parliament has, in effect, established nation-wide systems of hospital insurance and medical care by making grants to the provinces (or, for Quebec, yielding some of its field to taxes) on condition that their plans reach certain standards.

The courts' interpretation of provincial and national powers has put broadcasting and air navigation under Parliament's general power to make laws for the "peace, order and good government of Canada," but otherwise has reduced it to not much more than an emergency power, for wartime, or grave national crises like nation-wide famine or epidemics, or massive inflation, though some recent cases go beyond this.

However, the Fathers of Confederation, not content with giving Parliament what they thought an ample general power, added, "for greater certainty," a long list of examples of exclusive national powers: taxation, direct and indirect; regulation of trade and commerce (the courts have interpreted this to mean interprovincial and international trade and commerce); "the public debt and property" (this enables Parliament to make grants to