

The British North America Act.

As to Election
of Speaker of
House of
Commons.

44. The House of Commons on its first assembling after a General Election shall proceed with all practicable speed to elect one of its Members to be Speaker.

As to filling
up Vacancy
in Office of
Speaker.

45. In case of a vacancy happening in the office of Speaker by death, resignation or otherwise, the House of Commons shall, with all practicable speed, proceed to elect another of its Members to be Speaker.

Speaker to
preside.

46. The Speaker shall preside at all meetings of the House of Commons.

Provision in
case of ab-
sence of
Speaker.

47. Until the Parliament of Canada otherwise provides, in case of the absence for any reason of the Speaker from the Chair of the House of Commons for a period of forty-eight consecutive hours, the House may elect another of its Members to act as Speaker, and the Member so elected shall, during the continuance of such absence of the Speaker, have and execute all the powers, privileges and duties of Speaker.

Quorum of
House of
Commons.

48. The presence of at least twenty Members of the House of Commons shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the House for the exercise of its powers; and for that purpose the Speaker shall be reckoned as a Member.

Voting in
House of
Commons.

49. Questions arising in the House of Commons shall be decided by a majority of voices other than that of the Speaker; and when the voices are equal, but not otherwise, the Speaker shall have a vote.

Duration of
House of
Commons.

50. Every House of Commons shall continue for five years from the day of the return of the writs for choosing the House (subject to be sooner dissolved by the Governor General), and no longer.

Decennial Re-
adjustment of
Representa-
tion.

51. On the completion of the census in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, and of each subsequent decennial census, the representation of the four Provinces shall be readjusted by such authority, in such manner, and from such time, as the Parliament of Canada from time to time provides, subject and according to the following Rules:—

(1.) Quebec shall have the fixed number of sixty-five Members:

(2.) There shall be assigned to each of the other Provinces such a number of Members as will bear the same proportion to the number of its population (ascer-