

taken by voters; the powers and duties of Returning Officers; and generally the proceedings at and incident to such elections, shall be provided by the British North America Act, 1867, continue to apply respectively to elections of members to serve in the House of Commons for the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick." There are certain exceptions, as to the polling in Ontario and Quebec lasting only for one day, and that the qualification of voters in Ontario shall be such as was by law in force on the 23rd of January, 1869; and a provision that the revisors in Nova Scotia shall add to the list of voters the names of such Dominion officials and employees as would have been qualified to vote under the laws in force in that Province on the 1st of July, 1867, but who may have been disqualified by act of the Legislature of that Province passed since that day. There are also provisions respecting Quebec, British Columbia and Manitoba, and on some other points, but not of a bearing necessary to be observed upon in this article.

Without commenting upon the propriety or impropriety of having the same House composed of representatives chosen under different laws, with different statutory qualifications, and elected in different ways, it is sufficient to say that Parliament in its wisdom thought proper to prefer such a course, leaving to the House hereafter to be chosen to determine whether the continuance of such a course shall be prudent for the future or not. The important questions of the qualifications of the candidates, of the nature and extent of the franchise, and of the mode of election, whether by ballot and simultaneous polling or not, will no doubt form during the discussions preceding, and the canvas pending the elections, the subject of many and exciting arguments.

Assuming that all are desirous of doing what is best for the country, it may be useful to compare the existing laws, and thus by contrast enable the people of all the Provinces to select from the legislation of each that which may be deemed best, not simply in theory but in practical working. For this purpose, it is proposed briefly to point out the salient features of the Election laws in the three Provinces of Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia (Quebec is not touched upon), and with reference to both British Columbia and Manitoba, it is manifest, a little time must be allowed to those two Provinces to develop their own systems.

In the three Provinces referred to, the Election laws differ very materially, both as to the qualification of the electors and the candidates, the mode and time of voting, and the restrictions imposed upon the exercise of the franchise.

First, as to the qualification of the voters:

In Ontario, every male person 21 years of age, a British subject by birth or naturalization, not coming under any legal disqualification, duly entered on the last revised and certified list of voters, being actually and *bona*

fide the owner, tenant or occupant of real property of the value hereinafter mentioned, and being entered in the last revised assessment roll for any city, town or village, as such owner, tenant or occupant of such real property, namely:

In Cities, of the actual value of . . .	\$400
In Towns " " . . .	300
In Incorporated Villages, " . . .	200
In Townships " " . . .	200

shall be entitled to vote at elections for members for the Legislative Assembly.

Joint owners or occupiers of real property rated at an amount sufficient, if equally divided between them, to give a qualification to each, shall each be deemed rated within the Act; otherwise, none of them shall be deemed so rated.

"Owner" means in his own right, or in right of his wife, of an estate for life, or any greater estate.

"Occupant," *bona fide* in possession, either in his own right or in right of his wife (otherwise than as owner or tenant), and enjoying revenues and profits therefrom to his own use.

"Tenant" shall include persons who, instead of paying rent in money, pay in kind any portion of the produce of such property.

In *Nova Scotia*, every male subject by birth or naturalization, 21 years of age, not disqualified by law, assessed on the last revised assessment roll, in respect of real estate to the value of \$150, or in respect of personal estate, or of real and personal together, of the value of \$300, shall be entitled to vote.

Also, when a firm is assessed in respect of property sufficient to give each member a qualification, the names of the several persons comprising such firm shall be inserted in the list, but no member of a corporate body shall be entitled to vote or be entered on the list in respect of corporate property.

Also, when real property has been assessed as the estate of any person deceased, or as the estate of a firm, or as the estate of any person and son or sons, the heirs of the deceased in actual occupation at the time of the assessment, the persons who were partners of the firm at the time of the assessment, and the sons in actual occupation at the time of the assessment, shall be entitled to vote, as if their names had been specifically mentioned in the assessment, on taking an oath, if required, in accordance with the facts coming within the separate classification of the above provisions.

In *New Brunswick*, every male person 21 years of age, a British subject, not under any legal incapacity, assessed for the year for which the Registry is made up—in respect of real estate to \$100, or personal property, or personal and real, amounting to \$400, or on an annual income of \$400—shall be entitled to vote.

Thus, in both *Nova Scotia* and *New Brunswick* the franchise is more extended than in Ontario. In Ontario it still savours of the real estate. In *New Brunswick* and *Nova Scotia* it is based upon personal estate, *per se*, as well as real estate.