

Amendment Act of 1898 ward elections were almost universal in townships and towns. In the interest of broader municipal politics the Act abolished ward elections in townships, and for two years in towns of not more than 5,000. At present the ward system is still optional in towns, though its total abolition appears advisable.

In 1902 the town councils in ninety-seven towns were made up of six to eight councillors, in six towns of nine to ten, in two towns of eleven and twelve respectively. Down to 1897 the county councils were made up of representatives from the local municipal councils. The important County Councils Act of 1896 provided for the division of counties into not less than four, or more than nine districts, the actual number being determined by county population. Each district elects two members. The "cumulative" system of voting was also introduced, under which a voter is allowed as many votes as there are members elect of the county council. Thus where two county councillors are to be elected he has the option of giving both of his votes to one candidate. The effect of this new system of "free voting" has been helpful in equalizing political influence in the elections, and securing minority representation. In the cities, councils consist of the mayor and three aldermen elected annually for each ward.

Councillors must reside in the municipality, or live within two miles of it; they must also be rated on the last revised municipal assessment roll for at least the value of the following over and above all incumbrances: (a) in townships—freehold of \$400 or leasehold of \$800; (b) in villages—freehold of \$200 or leasehold of \$400; (c) in

towns—freehold of \$600 or leasehold of \$1,200; (d) in cities—freehold of \$1,000 or leasehold of \$2,000; but in the northern districts and in the provisional County of Haliburton where land values are low the qualifications are reduced, viz., in townships and villages, to freehold of \$100 or leasehold of \$200; in towns, to freehold of \$400 or leasehold of \$800. A county councillor must reside in the county division which he represents, and must have the same property qualification as a town reeve. Certain officials and others, including judges, innkeepers licensed to sell spirituous liquors, school trustees, etc., cannot qualify as councillors. In any new municipality, where on account of low property value no two persons can qualify, the lower qualification of an elector is sufficient. All persons over sixty years of age, civil servants, barristers, teachers, firemen, millers, etc., are exempt from being elected or appointed to any municipal position.

*The Franchise.*—The municipal franchise is almost universal. All men, widows and spinsters of the full age of twenty-one years, British subjects, and rated for real property (freehold or leasehold or both) for the following amounts have the right to vote: in townships and villages, \$100; in towns of 3,000 population or less, \$200; in towns of over 3,000 population, \$300; in cities, \$400. In any municipality an income assessment of \$400 also qualifies, income up to \$700 being exempt. The franchise is further extended to farmers' sons living at home. The father must own and occupy at least twenty acres for each voting member of his family. Elections are by ballot. "Vote by ballot" was introduced in Ontario in December, 1874, and adopted generally in the January elections of 1876.

## The Province of New Brunswick

### Municipal Government.

New Brunswick is divided into fifteen counties, each of which is a municipality and is governed by a body elected by the people, which is known as the municipal council, and which contains representatives from each parish. Each county is divided into parishes in the same fashion as in England, but these have no connection with any ecclesiastical matters, for there is no established church in the Province.

New Brunswick contains three incorporated cities and a large number of incorporated towns, almost all the towns of the Province having now a municipal government of their own. Every adult male resident is a voter, and women who are property owners have the right to vote in municipal elections.

### Roads.

The Province is well supplied with roads, which are divided into two classes, great roads and bye-roads. The great roads being the great lines of communication, while the bye-roads are such as exist between the settlements and connect with the great roads. There are about 1,500 miles of great roads in the Province and probably three or four times as many miles of bye-roads. The great roads are directly under the management of the Board of Works and are kept up by means of supervisors appointed for the purpose. The Province of New Brunswick expends large sums on the maintenance of these roads and the bridges connected with them. The bye-roads are maintained partly by a grant which is given by the government annually for their support and partly by statute labor. The statute labor may be performed by the individual who is subject to it in person, or it may be commuted by the payment of so much a day for each day when the person so assessed would be required to work in connection with the roads of the Province. The Government maintains a great number of expensive bridges, many of the rivers of

New Brunswick being large so that the work of bridging them is costly. In recent years it has been the policy of the Government to erect permanent structures of steel rather than the ordinary wooden bridges which were common formerly. Some of the recently erected bridges are magnificent structures and bid fair for centuries to come to stand as monuments of the liberality and energy of the Government which erected them.

### YEAS AND NAYS.

Section 274a of The Municipal Act provides that whenever a division is taken in a municipal council each member shall announce his vote upon the question openly and individually in the council *and the clerk shall record the same*. This direction, which applies to every vote in which a council is not unanimous, is very often overlooked. The yeas and nays are seldom recorded unless requested by a member of the council. Councils, however, are representative corporate bodies and electors have a right to know how they perform their duties. Some years ago there was a general tendency in councils to make appointments and decide other important questions by ballot. It was claimed that there was some advantage derived from this system, but it was clearly done away with in 1899 by the enactment above referred to.

To fail to record all votes that are not unanimous, is to deprive the electors of information that they are entitled to find in the proceedings of the council. Any one would be justified in claiming that a resolution or by-law was unanimously passed unless a division is recorded. This might be unpleasant and reflect not only on the council but on the clerk, whose duty under the statutory direction is plain. To prevent loss of time in recording votes blank resolution forms should be provided, on one side of which should be printed a list of the members of council with columns for recording their votes yea or nay.