

Municipal Divisions

Counties.—Counties were intended to be formed by proclamation of the Lieutenant-Governor, to consist of new townships not within the limits of any incorporated county. Under the present law, new counties can be organized only under the authority of special Acts of the Legislature. There are in all thirty-eight county corporations, two of which were constituted since Confederation—the provisional County of Haliburton in 1874, composed of townships within the limits of the incorporated Counties of Peterborough and Victoria; and the County of Dufferin, constituted, in 1875, out of townships previously within the limits of Grey, Simcoe, and Wellington. The County of Haliburton never completed its organization, and is still connected with the County of Victoria for the purposes of the administration of justice. All the other counties were formed previous to 1853. There are four county corporations composed of a union of counties—Leeds and Grenville, Northumberland and Durham, Prescott and Russell, Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry. In these unions the county in which the court house is situated is known as the senior county. The proceedings for the separation of a junior county from a senior county is now a subject for special legislation, the provisions of the general law in reference thereto having been repealed in 1909.

Townships.—In the organized counties, townships or unions of townships are already constituted to the number of four hundred and twenty-eight, containing from twenty thousand to eighty thousand acres each. Townships outside of this area may, by proclamation, be annexed to any adjacent county. Junior townships in a union may, by by-law of the county council, become separated when they have one hundred resident freeholders and tenants on the assessment roll. In districts, the inhabitants of any township having a population of one hundred persons may become a township municipality. Organization meetings for this purpose are called by the District Judge or stipendiary magistrate, on petition of not less than thirty inhabitants. In the districts, about eight hundred townships have been surveyed, nearly all of which are six miles square, but only one hundred and twenty-one township municipalities have been organized.

Cities, Towns and Villages.—An unincorporated village and suburbs, having a population of seven hundred and fifty with an area of not more than five hundred acres, may be