

wan, the sheltered grazing country of Alberta, and the great plains of the Peace River Valley in Athabasca are regions adapted in soil and climate to sustain a hardy and vigorous people. Within the past few years there has been a wonderful immigration into the Territories as well as into British Columbia and Manitoba. As railways are projected and constructed, the settlement is crowding to the front. Many of these settlers have formerly been residents of the American Union, while a large number have come direct from Europe, and the universal testimony is that the climate is most enjoyable, and that their prospect for making comfortable homes for themselves are beyond any question. Many who are now taking up the free homestead lands of Western Canada are ex-Canadians—Canadians who have resided for some time in the United States—who are now learning of the great wealth of their native land, and are returning to enjoy their heritage.

The administrative system established in Canada under the Union Act of 1867 is a federal union, having a general or central government controlling matters essential to the general development, the permanency, and the unity of the whole Dominion; and a number of Local or Provincial Governments, having the control and management of certain matters naturally and conveniently falling within their defined jurisdiction; while each government is administered in accordance with the British system of parliamentary institutions. Representatives to these governments are elected by the people, the House of Commons, or Federal Government, now consisting of 213 members; the number of representatives in the Local or Provincial Governments varying according to the size of the Province. Purely local affairs appertaining to the county divisions are looked after by councils elected for that purpose, and each village, town and city has its own municipal government; the whole system, from the smallest village council to the Federal Government, being based on the principle of government by the people.

The illustrations on these pages give a good idea of the substantial character of the several Provincial and Federal Legislative buildings.



BRITISH
COLUMBIA