

tion Act, passed in 1878. This Act provides for an elected Municipal Council for each county for the management of local affairs, such as maintenance of roads and bridges, care of the poor, and appointing of various county officers. The members of the Council are elected annually, one from each polling district.

The principal business now falling to the County Council was formerly done partly by the Court of Session, consisting of the magistrates of the county, and partly by the Town Meeting, which was composed of the ratepayers of the township. At this Town Meeting arrangements were made for the care of the poor, often by an auction sale. The lowest bidder—that is, the person who would undertake the care of all the poor for the least money—got the contract. Under the present system the poor are generally provided for at a home with a farm, under a general manager.

**New Brunswick.**—In 1891 New Brunswick abolished its Legislative Council. Its Legislature, as in all the other Provinces except Nova Scotia and Quebec, now consists of a single chamber, the House of Assembly.

**Prince Edward Island.**—For several years the Legislative Council of Prince Edward Island was elected by the people, but still formed a separate chamber. In 1892 the two bodies, Assembly and Council, were united, forming one chamber, composed of the two classes of members.

**Scandals.**—During the session of 1891 it was shown in the Dominion Parliament that certain contractors had obtained secret information from the Office of Public Works which enabled them to secure important contracts. The charges were so serious that the Minister of Public Works was forced to retire from the Cabinet, and the member representing the city of Quebec in the House of Commons was expelled from the House.

Closely following this scandal was the dismissal of his Ministry by the Governor of Quebec, on a charge of misuse of public moneys granted in aid of railways. The action of the Governor was sustained by the Assembly elected soon afterwards.

**Manitoba.**—Manitoba is noted for its rapid growth. The