

THE LEGISLATURE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

In this province there were two Legislative Chambers until January, 1894, when they were merged into one—the object of the change being to lessen the cost of legislation. The arrangement being peculiar is thus explained in the Statistical Year Book of 1895:—

Under the old law, there were two Houses: one called the Legislative Council, and the other the House of Assembly. The Legislative Council consisted of thirteen members elected from certain large constituencies. The House of Assembly consisted of thirty members elected from smaller constituencies. The Legislative Councillors were elected by voters, who owned freehold or leasehold property to the value of \$324. The members of the House of Assembly were elected practically by manhood suffrage, that is to say, there were a number of qualifications for the electors, such as property, occupation of land, and performance of statute labor, and, taken altogether, they practically amounted to manhood suffrage.

The purpose of the change made by the statute passed in 1893 was to amalgamate the two Houses, and there is now one House called the Legislative Assembly consisting of thirty members. These thirty members were returned for fifteen constituencies, each constituency returning two members. One of these members, who is called a Councillor, is returned by the votes of men who own property, freehold or leasehold, to the value of \$324, which is the same qualification as that for a member of the old Legislative Council. The other member, called an Assemblyman, is elected by the general vote, the same men being able to vote for him as under the old law could vote for a member of the House of Assembly. After they are elected, both Councillor and Assemblyman stand in the same position. They have the same voting power, and the effect of this is to make simply an amalgamation of the two Houses. The protection supposed to be given to property holders by the Legislative Council still exists.