

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

This body usually consists of nine members, appointed by the Crown, but whose continuance in office, like that of the ministry in England, depends on the wishes of the people, as expressed by their representatives. They are the advisers of the Governor, in the administration of the affairs of the colony, and they consist in part of the heads of the principal departments.

LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

Each province has its legislature, which consists of two branches—the Legislative Council and House of Assembly.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Varies in number, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick each twenty-one, and Prince Edward Island nine members; whose appointments proceed from the Crown, and continue during pleasure. Their duties and functions correspond in a great measure with those of the English House of Lords, forming the upper branch of the Legislature. It has the power to reject or amend bills sent to it by the House of Assembly, and may originate any measures except money bills.

THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

Emphatically the Commons of its respective colony, are elected quadrennially by the people. The qualification of voters vary. Each county, including townships, elects a limited number of members, who have the power of making laws, investigating provincial accounts, and appropriating the revenue, except where the executive have the initiation, levying taxes; and in general of legislating in all matters connected with the interest of the colony, subject to the approval or rejection of the government of Great Britain.

DEPARTMENTS.

The members composing the Heads of Departments vary in number, and are on the increase. In the lower provinces the following are the principal:—Attorney General, who is generally, though not necessarily, the leader of the government; Solicitor General, Surveyor General, Post Master General, Provincial Secretary, Commissioner of the Board

of Works, etc. The principal part of the heads of departments, on receiving their provincial appointments, have to return, under the responsible government system, which prevails in these colonies, to their constituents for re-election.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Duties.—As a member of the Executive Government, he has to give legal advice and opinions on the legality and constitutionality of matters involving questions of law and legislative enactments, examine and report on grants issued from the Surveyor General's office, assist in the criminal business, and give legal advice to the heads of Departments, and also in numerous local matters.

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL

Is one of the Law Advisers of the crown, and has to assist the Attorney General in all matters connected with the business of the province.

SURVEYOR GENERAL.

This officer, the head of the Crown-Land Department, conducts the sales and transfers of crown lands; leases minerals and timber berths; appoints the deputy crown surveyors, and orders surveys to be made when authorized by the legislature.

THE POST-MASTER GENERAL

Regulates the number and transit of mails, establishes post and way offices throughout the country, and arranges the general postal affairs of the country as by law directed.

THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY

Is an important officer. He has to prepare and countersign all proclamations and other documents emanating from the executive; affix the Great Seal to all Letters Patent; countersign and register all grants of land from the crown; and has to superintend the general business of the country, as well as conduct all correspondence of a provincial nature.

BOARD OF WORKS.

The number of officers comprising this department, along with the duties connected therewith, differ in the different colonies. In Nova Scotia, they are entrusted with the management of the pro-