

municipal and school taxes, police matters and the enforcement of certain laws concerning agriculture. In 1886, there were in the province 758 local municipalities, whose revenues amounted to \$1,125,231 and expenses to \$959,284.

The county municipality covers all the territory of the county and is composed of the mayors of all the local municipalities within that territory. The chairman of each county council is called the warden. This council regulates all questions interesting more than one municipality, decrees the erection of certain territory into municipalities, and decides in appeal certain contestations arising out of affairs of the local municipalities.

The cities and towns are governed by special councils elected by the rate-payers. Their powers are very extended and regulated by special charters or by the general law relating to cities and towns in default of special laws.

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JUDICIAL ORGANIZATION.

Our judicial machinery comprises courts of commissioners, and magistrates or justices of the peace, courts of district magistrates, police magistrates, recorders in cities, the Circuit Court, Superior Court, Court of Review, Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court of Canada, and, in England, the Privy Council, which is the highest tribunal.

Commissioners' Courts.

The commissioners' court is composed of persons chosen directly from the people and mostly belonging to the agricultural class, appointed from time to time by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, in nearly all the municipalities. Its jurisdiction is limited almost wholly to the recovery of civil debts for amounts not exceeding \$25, and its decisions are mostly based on equity, without much regard for the text of the law or jurisprudence.

Justices of the Peace.

The justices of the peace are also named by the Lieutenant-Governor, but mayors of municipalities are justices of the peace *ex officio* during their terms of office. The functions of these magistrates are chiefly confined to police matters and their jurisdiction does not exceed the limits fixed by the general laws. In criminal matters, they have primary jurisdiction, in the sense that they issue the warrants for the arrest of persons charged with crime, conduct the preliminary examinations of the witnesses, discharge the accused when there is no proof against them, or, in the contrary case, commit them to prison to await their trials, which are conducted by the police magistrate or the criminal court properly so called and legally designated as the "Court of Queen's Bench, Crown side."