some four hundred yet struggle on. At ninety these have been reduced to a handful of thirty trembling patriarchs. Year after year they fall in diminishing numbers. One lingers, perhaps, a lonely marvel, till the century is over. We look again, and the work of death is finished. —*Bishop Burgess.*

THE OPENING OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

(*From the Times, Feb. 6.*)

Yesterday Her Majesty the Queen opened the second session of her Seventh Parliament and the thirtieth of her now long and prosperous reign. The occasion was one calculated to excite a high degree of interest, for it not only came after a crisis the most important perhaps, which has occurred since Her Majesty's accession to the throne, as well in its popular bearings as its political indications, but also at a period when everything portends that the session which it inaugurated will be more eventful even than the last. Though but few can be actual spectators of the ceremonial within the House, all feel an indefinable sense of participation in it if they can but catch a passing glance of the principal actors in the scene. Some such considerations alone could have induced the vast multitudes who flocked from all parts of London yesterday to face rain and mud in order to see the royal pageant. A genial sunshine in the forenoon gave hopes that "Queen's weather" would lend its aid to the attraction of the coming spectacle, but shortly before twelve o'clock rain began to fall, and at half-past twelve the rain came down in torrents. Both sides of Parliament street were densely packed, the windows of the houses, even those from which but an indifferent view could be obtained, were filled, and every site which was suitable, and many which were not, were made more or less available for the erection of temporary stands and balconies. A battalion of the Grenadier Guards, headed by their band, was posted near the entrance to the Lords, and the Coldstrems opposite Palace yard. Her Majesty occupied what is termed a "dress carriage," with eight cream colored horses. Though the downpour of rain necessitated the closing of the windows of her carriage so that few could catch a glimpse of the Queen, hats and handkerchiefs were tumultuously waved as her Majesty passed along, and loud and enthusiastic cheers rose from the voices of tens of thousands.

The doors of the House of Lords were not opened till twelve o'clock, but long before that time a considerable number of ladies had collected, and the dim magnificence of the long corridors and chambers were enlivened by the presence of exquisite toilets in all the richest amplitudes of the latest fashion. In a few minutes after the hour had struck a considerable space of the government benches was occupied, and from that time till after one o'clock, the arrivals were incessant. The opposition benches filled more slowly, for on these occasions this part of the chamber are reserved for peeresses only, and the majority of these did not arrive till shortly before the great ceremony of the day began.

The gallery on the right of the throne devoted to ladies connected with the various diplomatic bodies was soon filled, and also that on the left of the chamber. At the upper end of this, near the throne, sat a group of Indian Princes, the extraordinary magnificence of whose dresses and jewels made them for a long time the prominent features of attraction to the ladies present. Early after the opening, Prince Teck, wearing the handsome uniform of blue and silver of the Austrian Hussars, entered the House, and was conducted by Sir Edward Cust, Chief Master of the Ceremonies, to a seat just outside the body of the House, in which, as not being a peer, he of course could have no place. Lord Houghton was the first lay peer to present himself, and he was quickly followed by the Marquis of Winchester, the Earl of Westmorland, and Bishops of Oxford, London and Ely, and the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. None of their lordships, however, had yet assumed their robes of state, but in plain morning costume moved about the House, conversing with the peeresses and ladies of their acquaintance. Towards one o'clock the body of the House was almost filled with ladies.

At about one o'clock the Bishops, in their robes of state (similar to those of Her Majesty's Judges, but without the wig) began to take their places on the Episcopal bench. There was, however, not room for them all, and several had to sit with the Judges in front of the woolsack. At the same time also many peers in their robes took their seats. Justices Bramwell, Lush, Shee, Chief Baron Kelly, Mr. Baron Channell, and Mr. Justice Byles came in almost together, and after them the Lord Chancellor and Lord Cranworth. The part allotted to the diplomatic body had meanwhile been gradually filling, and the crowd of splendid uniforms covered with orders and decorations, which is also to be seen there on these occasions, made it one of the most brilliant parts of the whole chamber. The ambassadors of Turkey, France, Austria, Prussia and Russia, occupied the front seat, and behind these were the ministers of Belgium, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Bavaria, while the background was filled up with ministers from minor States and a crowd of secretaries and *attaches*.

The first peers to represent the opposition were Lords Granville, Clarendon and Sydney. After them came Lord Roden, Lord Dufferin, Lord Darnley, Lord Albermarle, the Dude of Sutherland, Lord Churchston, the Duke of Buckingham, Lord Lytton, Lords Shrewsbury and Talbot, and the Marquis of Westmeath. The Marquis of Winchester, the Duke of Beaufort, Lord Colville and many peers who are seldom seen in the House save on these occasions, were also present, and by half-past one o'clock the House was nearly full.

At this time Lord Derby entered. There was a momentary hush as a brilliant group appeared at the door, and their Royal Highnesses, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edindurgh and the Duke of Cambridge, attended by their equerries, entered. Both the Princes wore ordinary robes as dukes over their uniforms, and the Prince took his own seat, the first on the opposition benches on the left, next the throne, with the Duke of Edinburgh below and the Duke of Cambridge next to him again. After these came Lord Chief Justice Bovill, with Messrs. Justice Smith and Keating.

At ten minutes past two the doors on the right of the throne, by which the Queen enters, were thrown open, and the whole of the illustrious assemblage in the Chamber rose with a great rustle, which was instantly succeeded by an intense silence as every eye was fixed upon the door. Formerly, when the Queen used to open Parliament with the Prince Consort, her arrival was always proclaimed beforehand by brilliant flourishes of trumpets. Yesterday, however, as last year, the splendid procession entered amid a solemn silence that was almost funeral. First came the heralds, dowing stiffly in their tabards, as they passed the throne, then the chief officers of the household, followed by Lord Derby, carrying the sword of State, and accompanied by Lord Malmesbury. After these noblemen came Her Majesty, accompanied by the Princesses Helena and Louise and Prince Arthur, and followed by the Duchess of Wellington, who stood behind the throne. The Queen, as she sat on the throne, had the Princesses, with Lord Derby and Lord Malmesbury, on her left. On her right were the Lord Chancellor, with the speech; the Duke of Buckingham, the Marquis of Winchester, with the Cap of Maintenance, and the Duke of Richmond, bearing the Imperial crown, while the officers of the household, the Chamberlain's Department and the House of Lords closed in the background.

When the Queen had taken her place on the throne, the Lord Chancellor by her command, requested their lordships to be seated, and the Deputy Usher of the Black Rod was despatched to summon the "faithful Commons." During the interval which always elapses before the knights and burgesses present themselves in almost tumultuous array below the bar, the most intense silence prevailed in the House of Peers, and every look was directed to the august occupant of the throne and those who stood around it. They might have been statues, so motionless were they all.

The Queen never stirred *nor looked to right or left*. Her dress was a plain black silk, with the ribbon and star of the Garter. On her head was a Mary Stuart cap, surmounted by a demi-crown of brilliants, from the back of which depended a long white veil, and she wore the Koh-i-noor in a necklace.

Prince Arthur wore the very plain uniform of a cadet of the Royal Military Academy.

The "faithful Commons" came to the bar in a more orderly way than last year.

When complete silence was restored, the Lord Chancellor, bowing to the Queen, opened the speech, and in an admirably clear voice read the document.

The reading of this unusually long address was listened to with the most profound silence, which deepened almost into intensity when the paragraph relating to reform was read. At the end of the speech there was a minute's pause, when the Queen bowed graciously from the throne, and at once all rose at the signal. Her Majesty then descended the steps, and turning towards the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh who were advancing to meet her, she came forward and kissed them both. Anything more simple, natural and affectionate than this greeting between the mother and her children cannot well be imagined. The Queen then presented her hand to the Duke of Cambridge and to Prince Teck, each of whom kissed it respectfully, and then again turning to the House she bowed and left with the same State ceremonial as she had entered, followed by her sons. In a few minutes the whole of the brilliant assemblage had broken up, and thus commenced the second session of the seventh Parliament of Queen Victoria.

The Bill to provide for the

Union & Government

OF

British America!

WHEREAS the Provinces of CANADA, NOVA SCOTIA and NEW BRUNSWICK have expressed their desire to form a Federal Union under the British Crown, for the purposes of Government and Legislation, based upon the principles of the British Constitution.

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED BY THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords, Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

PRELIMINARY.

1. This Act may be cited as "The British North American Act, 1867."

INTERPRETATION.

2. In the construction of this Act the following rules shall be observed with respect to the following terms, unless otherwise expressly provided for, or such construction would be inconsistent with the manifest intention of the Act, or repugnant to the context—that is to say:—

The words "The Queen," shall mean Her Majesty, her Heirs, and Successors, Sovereigns of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

The words "from and after the Union," shall mean from and after the day on which the proclamation, declaring the Union of the Provinces, shall take effect.

The word "Parliament" shall mean the Legislature or Parliament of the Kingdom of Canada.

The word "Legislature" shall mean the Local Legislature of any of the Provinces of the Union.

The word "Union" shall mean the Union of the Provinces, of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick.

The words, "Governor-General," shall mean the Chief Executive Officer or Administrator for the time being of the Government appointed by the Queen, by whatever name designated.

The words "Governor-General in Council," shall mean the Chief Executive Officer or Administrator, Governor or person administering for the time being the Government of Canada, acting by and with the advice of the Privy Council thereof.

The words "Lieutenant Governor," shall mean the Chief Executive Officer or Administrator for the time being of the Government of any Province, in the Union.

The words "Lieutenant-Governor in Council," shall mean the Lieutenant Governor or Administrator for the time being of the Government of either of the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, or New Brunswick, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council thereof.

The word "Kingdom" shall mean and comprehend the United Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

The words "Privy Council" shall mean such persons as may from time to time be appointed by the Governor-General, and sworn to aid and advise in the Government of the Kingdom.

The word "Canada" (when not applied to the Province of Canada) shall mean the Kingdom of Canada hereby constituted.

The words "Upper Canada" shall mean all that part of the Province of Canada which formerly constituted the Province of Upper Canada.

The words "Lower Canada" shall mean all that part of the Province of Canada which formerly constituted the Province of Lower Canada.

The word 'Ontario' shall mean the Province of Ontario hereby constituted, and the said Province shall be held to have the same boundaries as that part of the late Province of Canada known as Upper Canada prior to and at the time of the passing of this Act.

The word 'Quebec' shall mean the Province of Quebec hereby constituted, and the said Province shall be held to have the same boundaries as that part of the late Province of Canada known as Lower Canada prior to and at the time of the passing of this Act.

The words "Nova Scotia" shall mean the Province of Nova Scotia, and the said Province shall be held to have the same boundaries as existing prior to and at the time of the passing of this Act.

The words "New Brunswick," shall mean the Province of New Brunswick, and the said Province shall be held to have the same boundaries as existing prior to and at the time of the passing of this Act.

The word "month" shall mean a calendar month.

Words importing the singular number or the masculine gender only, shall include more persons, parties, or things of the same kind than one, and females as well as males, and the converse.

The word "oath" shall be construed as meaning a solemn affirmation whenever the context applies to any person and case by whom and in which a solemn affirmation may be made instead of an oath; and in every case where an oath or affirmation is directed to be made before any person or officer, such person or officer shall have full power and authority to adminster the same and to certify its having been made; and the wilful making of any false statement in any such oath or affirmation shall be wilful and corrupt perjury.

REPEALING CLAUSE.

4.—From and after the Union, all Acts and parts of Acts passed by the Parliament of Great Britain, the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Legislature of Upper Canada, the Legislature of Lower Canada, the Legislature of Canada, the Legislature of Nova Scotia, or the Legislature of New Brunswick, which are repugnant to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall be and the same are hereby repealed: Provided always that the repeal of the said several Acts of Parliament and parts of Acts of Parliament shall not be held to receive or give any force or effect to any enactment which has, by the said Acts or any of them, been repealed or determined, nor shall the repeal of the said Acts and parts of Acts affect—

1.—Any penalty, forfeiture, or liability, civil or criminal, incurred before the time of such repeal, or any proceedings for enforcing the same, had, done, completed, or pending at the same time of such repeal.

2.—Nor any indictment, information, conviction, sentence, or prosecution, had, done, completed, or pending at the time of such repeal

3.—Nor any action, suit, jugement, decree, certificate, execution, process, order, rule, or any proceeding, matter or thing whatever respecting the same, had, done, made, entered, granted, completed, pending, existing, or in force at the time of such repeal.

4.—Nor any act, deed, right, title, interest, grant, assurance, descent, will, registry, contract, lien, charge, matter or thing, had, done, made acquired, established or existing at the time of such repeal.

5.—Nor any office, appointment, commission, salary, allowance, security, duty, or any matter or thing appertaining thereto, at the time of such repeal.

6.—Nor any marriage, certificate or registry thereof, lawfully had, made, granted, or existing before or at the time of such repeal.

7.—Nor shall such repeal defeat, disturb, invalidate, or prejudicially affect any other matter or thing whatsoever, had, done, completed, existing or pending at the time of such repeal.

8—But every

Such penalty, forfeiture, and liability, and every such

Indictment, information, conviction, sentence, and prosecution, and every such

Action, suit, judgement, decree, certificate, execution, process, order, rule, proceeding, matter, or thing, and every such

Act, deed, right, title, interest, grant, assurance, descent, will, registry, contract, lien, charge, matter or thing, and every such

Office, appointment, commission, salary, allowance, security, and duty, and every such

Marriage certificate and registry, and every such matter and thing, and the force and effect thereof respectively, may and shall, both at law and in equity, remain and continue as if no such repeal had taken place, and, so far as necessary, may and shall be continued, prosecuted, enforced, and proceeded with under the said Laws, so far as applicable thereto.

UNION.

4.—It shall be lawful for the Queen to declare by Proclamation that the said Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick upon, from, and after a certain day in such proclamation to be appointed, which day shall be within six months next after the passing of this Act, shall form and be one united dominion, under the name of the Kingdom of Canada, and thenceforth the said Provinces shall constitute and be One Kingdom under the same aforesaid, upon, from, and after the day so appointed as aforesaid.

5.—The seat of Government of Canada shall be the city of Ottawa, subject to the Royal Prerogative.

6.—From and after the Union, Upper Canada and Lower Canada shall be severed and each shall form a separate Province.

7.—From and after the Union, Upper Canada shall be named and known as the Province of Ontario, and Lower Canada shall be named and known as the Province of Quebec.

8.—Subject to any future action of the Governments of the Provinces respectively, the seats of Government shall be as follows:

In Ontario, the City of Toronto; in Quebec, the City of Quebec; in Nova Scotia, the City of Halifax; and in New Brunswick, the City of Fredericton.

THE EXECUTIVE POWER.

9.—The Executive Government and authority is and shall be vested in the Queen.

10.—The Queen has and shall have the Command-in-Chief of the Land and Naval Militia, and of all Naval and Military Forces whatsoever.

11.—The Governor General may, by instrument under the Great Seal of Canada, constitute a Privy Council, and he may from time to time appoint and remove Members thereof.

12.—All powers, authorities and functions which by any Act of the Parliament of Great Britain, or of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or by any Act of the Legislature of Upper Canada, Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, or New Brunswick respectively, are vested in, or are authorized or required to be exercised by the respective Governors or Lieutenant Governors of the said Provinces, with the advice, or with the advice and consent, of the Executive Council of such Provinces respectively, or in conjunction with such Executive Council, or with any number of the Members thereof, or by the said Governors or Lieutenant Governors individually and alone, shall, in so far as the same are not repugnant to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, be vested in and may be exercised by the Governor General of the Kingdom of Canada, with the advice, or with the advice and consent of, or in conjunction, as the case may require, with the Privy Council, or any members thereof, as may be appointed by the Queen for the affairs of the Kingdom of Canada, or by the Governor General of the Kingdom of Canada individually and alone, where the advice, consent, or concurrence of the Privy Council is not required.

12.—The Governor General may assign depute, substitute, and appoint any person or persons jointly or severally, to be his deputy or deputies within any part or parts of Canada, and in that capacity to exercise, perform and execute during the pleasure of the said Governor General, such of the powers, functions and authorities as may under this Act be vested in or exercised by the Governor General as the Governor General shall deem to be necessary or expedient, but the appointment of a Deputy or Deputies as aforesaid shall not abridge, alter, or in any way affect the power or authority of the Governor General.

THE LEGISLATIVE POWER.

14.—From and after the Union, there shall be in and for the Kingdom of Canada one Parliament, which shall be composed of the Queen, an Upper House to be called the Senate, and a House of Commons.

SENATE

15.—For the purpose of forming the Senate the Kingdom of Canada shall be considered as consisting of three Divisions—

(1). Ontario.
(2). Quebec.
(2). The Maritime Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

And each Division shall have an equal representation in the Senate.

16.—Ontario shall be represented in the Senate by twenty-four members, Quebec by twenty-four members, and the Maritime Provinces by twenty-four members, of which Nova Scotia shall have twelve members, and New Brunswick twelve members.

17.—For the purpose of composing the Senate, it shall be lawful for the Governor General, before the time be appointed for the first meeting of Parliament, by an instrument or instruments under the Great Seal of Canada, to summon to the Senate such persons as the Queen may think fit, subject to the provisions of this Act, and every person who shall be so summoned shall thereby become a Senator.

18.—The Senators shall each be of the full age of thirty years, shall each be a natural born subject of the Queen, or her subject naturalized by Act of Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or by an Act of any or either or one of the Legislatures of the Provinces of Canada, Upper Canada, Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, or New Brunswick, or by an Act of the Parliament of Canada hereby created, and shall each be legally or equitably sealed or entitled as of freehold for his own use and benefit of lands or tenements held in free and common socage, or seized and possessed for his own use and benefit of lands and tenements held in *franc-alleu* or *roture*, in the Province for which he shall be appointed, of the value of four thousand dollars over and above all debts, charges, dues, and incumberances thereon, and shall each be and continue to be worth the sum last aforesaid over and above his debts and liabilities; and shall each also possess a continuous residence in the Province for which he is appointed, oxcept during the time that he shall hold an office under the Government, the duties of which will require his continuous attendance at the seat of Government of Canada.

19.—In the case of Quebec, each of the twenty-four Senators representing such Province shall be appointed to represent one of the twenty-four Electoral Divisions of Lower Canada mentioned in Schedule A of Chapter First of the Consolidated Statutes of Canada, and such Senator shall reside or possess his qualification in the Electoral Division he is appointed to represent.

20.—On the application of the Government of Canada, Her Majesty in Council may from time to time sanction an appointment of additional Senators, so as that the whole number shall in no case exceed seventy-eight, the proportions allotted to each of the three divisions being preserved. In case of vacancies after any such increase above seventy-two; no appointment shall be made without the sanction of the British Goverument till the whole number is reduced below seventy-two.

21.—Whenever after the first appointment a vacancy in the Senate shall take place, it shall be lawful for the Governor General, in the Queen's name, by an instrument under the Great Seal of Canada, to summon to the said Senate a person duly qualified according to the provisions of this Act to fill such vacancy.

22.—Every Senator shall hold his seat in the Senate for the term of his life, subject to the provisions of this Act.

23.—If any Senator shall, for two successive Sessions of Parliament, fail to give his attendance in the Senate, or if he shall take any oath or make any declaration or acknowledgement of allegiance, obedience, or otherwise, to any foreign Prince or Power, or shall do, concurr in, or adopt any act whereby he may become a subject or a citizen of any foreign State or power, or shall cease to have any of the qualifications required by this Act, or shall become bankrupt or take the benefit of any Act relating to insolvent debtors, or become a defaulter, or be attained of treason, or be convicted of felony or of any infamous crime, his seat in the Senate shall thereby become vacant.

24—Every Senator shall, pefore taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor-General or some person or persons authorised by him to administer the same, the Oath of Allegiance to the Queen and the declaration respectively set forth in Schedule A.

25.—Any person who at the time of the Union is a Member of the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia or of New Brunswick, and who may accept the office of Senator, shall, by his acceptance, be held to have vacated his seat in such Legislative Council; and any person who at the time of the Union is a Member of the Legislative Council of Canada, Nova Scotia, or New Brunswick, and to whom the office of Senator is offered, who shall not within thirty days thereafter signify his acceptance thereof, the same shall be held to have declined such office.

26.—Any Senator may, by writing under his hand, addressed to the Governor-General, resign his seat in the Senate, and thereupon such seat shall become vacant.

27.—If any question respecting the qualification of a senator or respecting a vacancy in the Senate shall arise, the same shall be heard and determined by the Senate.

28.—The Governor-General shall have power, by an instrument under the Great Seal of Canada, to appoint one Member of the Senate to be Speaker thereof, and to remove him and appoint another in his stead.

29.—Subject to alteration by Parliament, the presence of at least fifteen Members of the Senate, including the Speaker, shall be necessary to constitute a Meeting for the exercise of its powers.

30.—The Speaker shall vote as other Members, and in case of an equality of votes, it shall be held that the decision is in the negative.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

31.—The House of Commons shall consist of one hundred and eighty-one members, of whom eighty-two shall be elected for Ontario, sixty-five for Quebec, nineteen for Nova Scotia, and fifteen for New Brunswick.

32.—Until otherwise provided by Parliament, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, shall for the purpose of the election of Members in the House of Commons, be and the same are hereby respetively divided into Electoral Districts as follows:—

1. ONTARIO.

For the purpose of representation in Parliament Ontario shall be territorially divided into the Counties, Ridings of Counties, Cities and Towns, hereinafter mentioned, which shall form Electoral Districts, and each such Electoral District, as hereinafter numbered shall be represented by one Member in the House of Commons.

[Here follow the names of the Counties, &c., which it is not necessary for us to give.]

2. QUEBEC.

Quebec shall be divided into sixty-five Electoral Districts, to be composed of the sixty-five Electoral Divisions in which Lower Canada is now divided, under Chapter two of the Consolidated Statutes of Canada, Chapter 75 of the Consolidated Statutes of Lower Canada, and the Act of the Province of Canada, 23 Victoria Chapter 1, or of any other Act amending the same in force at the time of the Union; and each such Electoral Division is hereby constituted an Electoral District for the purpose of this Act, and shall be entitled to return one Member to the House of Commons.

3. NOVA SCOTIA.

Each of the eighteen counties of Nova Scotia shall constitute an Electoral District. The county of Halifax shall be entitled to return two Members to the House of Commons, and each of the other counties one Member.

4. NEW BRUNSWICK.

New Brunswick shall be divided into fifteen Electoral Districts (of which the city of St. John shall be one, and entitled to return one Member), and each of the fourteen counties into which New Brunswick is divided, shall constitute an Electoral District, and shall be entitled to return one member to the House of Commons.

33—There shall be a General Census of the people taken in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, and decennially afterwards; and immediately after the said census, and immediately after every decennial census thereafter, the representation from each Province in the House of Commons shall be re-adjusted by such authority, and in such manner, as any Act of Parliament from time to time directs, according to the following rules:

(1) Quebec shall have the fixed number of *Sixty-five* Members.—

(2) There shall be assigned to each of the other Provinces such a number of Members as shall bear the same Proportion of the Number of its Population (ascertained at such Census) as the Number *Sixty-five* bears to the Number of the Population of Quebec (so ascertained.

(3) In the computation of the Number of Members for a Province, a fractional part less than on-half of the whole requisite for entitling the Province to a Member shall be disregarded; but a fractional part exceeding one-half of that number shall be equivalent to the whole number.

(4) On any such Re-adjustment the Number of Members for a Province shall not be reduced unless the Proportion which the number of the population of the Province bore to the Number of the aggregate Population of Canada at the last preceding Re-adjustment of the Number of Members for the Province is ascertained at the then latest census to be diminished by *One Twentieth* part or upwards.

(5). Such re-adjustment shall not take effect until after the termination of the then existing Parliament.

34. The number of Members may be from time to time increased by Parliament provided the proportionate Representation of the several Provinces prescribed by this Act is not thereby disturbed.

35. Every House of Commons shall continue for *five* years from the day of the Return of the Writs for choosing the same and no longer (subject to be sooner prorogued or dissolved by the Governor-General.

36. Until other provisions are made by Parliament, all the laws which at the time of the Union are in force in the Provinces respectively relating to the qualification and disqualification of persons to be elected, or to sit or vote as Members of the House of Assembly or Legislative Assembly in the respective Provinces, relating to the qualification or disqualification of voters, or to the oaths to be taken by voters, or to Returning Officers, and their powers and duties, or relating to the proceedings at elections, or to the period during which such elections may be continued, or relating to the trial of controverted elections, and the proceedings incident thereto, or relating to the vacating of seats of Members, or to the execution of new writs in case of any seat being vacated otherwise than by a dissolution, shall respectively apply to Elections of Members to serve in the House of Commons.

37. Every Member of the House of Commons shall, before taking his seat make and subscribe before the Governor General or some person authorised by him to administer the same, the oath of allegiance to the Queen, set forth in Schedule A.

38. The Governor General shall, within six months from and after the Union, cause writs to be issued in such form and by such person, and to such Returning Officers as he may prescribe for the first election of Members to serve in the House of Commons, and such persons shall have all such and the same powers as are possessed by the Officers, at the time of the passing of this Act, charged with the issue of writs for the election of Members to serve in the House of Assembly, or Legislative Assembly of each of the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, or of Returning Officers (as the case may be), and in case any vacancy in the representation of an Electoral District shall occur in the House of Commons before the meeting of Parliament, or after the meeting of Parliament, and before provision is made by Parliament in such respect, a writ in respect of such vacant Electoral District may be issued in like manner, and the Governor shall, within six months after the Union, and thereafter from time to time, as occasion shall require, in the Queen's name, and by an instrument or instruments under the Great Seal, summon and call together a House of Commons.

39. The House of Commons shall, upon its first assembling, after every general election, proceed forthwith to elect one of its number to be Speaker, and in case of his death, resignation or removal by a vote, the said House of Commons shall forthwith proceed to elect another of their Members to be Speaker; and the Speaker so elected shall preside at all Meetings of the Commons. And until otherwise provided by Act of Parliament, in case of the absence from the Chair of the House from any cause of the Speaker of the House of Commons for a period of forty-eight consecutive hours, the House of Commons may elect one of its number to act as Speaker, and such one so appointed shall, during the continued absence of the Speaker, preside at all Meetings of the Commons, and for the time being execute all the powers and privileges of the Speaker.

40. Except for the purposes of the previous section, the presence of at least twenty Members of the House of Commons, including the Speaker, shall be necessary to constitute a Meeting of the House of Commons for the exercise of its powers, and all questions which shall arise in the Commons shall be decided by the majority of voices of such Members as shall be present, other than the Speaker; and when the voices shall be equal the Speaker shall have the casting vote.

41. No Senator shall be capable of being elected, or of sitting or voting as a Member of the House of Commons.

MONEY.

42. Bills for appropriating any part of the Public Revenue of Canada or for imposing any Tax or Impost shall originate in the House of Commons.

43. It shall not be lawful for the House of Commons to originate or pass any vote, resolution, address or bill for the appropriation of any part of the Public Revenue, or of any Tax or Impost, to any purpose that has not been first recommended to that House by message of the Governor-General in the Session in which such vote, resolution, address or bill is proposed.

[For want of space we cannot publish the whole of the Bill this week. We will give the remainder in our next,

Summerside Journal.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1867.

☞ No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. We must know the names and addresses of our correspondents as a guaranty of their good faith. We cannot undertake to return communications that are not used

CONFEDERATION BILL.

WE publish to-day the "Bill to provide for the Union and Government of British North America." This Bill differs considerably from the Quebec Scheme, and the differences are all in favor of the Maritime Provinces. It was provided in that Scheme that the sum of eighty cents per head of the population granted for local purposes, should not increase with the increase of population, but remain fixed according to the census of 1861. By the new Bill this allowance of eighty cents per head shall be regulated by the number of inhabitants in each Maritime Colony, until it reaches to 400,000. In this way is one of the most formidable objections to the Union of the Colonies very cleverly obviated. But this is not all. There is to be a further grant to Nova Scotia of $60,000, and to New Brunswick of $50,000, for local purposes. Ontario and Quebec get similar grants, but not nearly so large in proportion to their populations. This makes the per capita grant very considerably over eighty cents. The General Government also takes upon itself the regulation, and consequently the expense of Prisons and Penitentiaries.

The Canadians do not seem to like these alterations in the financial part of the Scheme of Union. The Toronto *Globe* states that by the present arrangement Upper Canada will receive from the general revenue, for local purposes, but sixty cents per head of its population, and Lower Canada seventy cents; while Nova Scotia and New Brunswick get respectively eighty-eight cents, and one hundred and ten cents each.

The Senate of the New Dominion is to consist of seventy-two members, but in certain contingencies six more can be added to the number. This is a vast improvement on the Quebec Scheme, for in that Scheme no provision whatever was made for increasing the number of the Senators, let the exigencies of the State be what they might.

We do not see what occasion there was for inserting the clause relative to Education in the Act of Union. We always understood that the education of its people was one of those things which was to be left to the sole management of the Government of each Province. It is, in our opinion, of the greatest importance to the stability and harmony of the Union that the powers and functions of the general and local governments be strictly defined. It would be much better if the general Government took upon itself the sole control of education in all the Provinces, than to give it the power of interfering in any arrangement which might be made by the local Legislatures. It is admitted by most writers, that the wording of the clauses is somewhat vague, but this we believe will make them the more mischievous.

Provision is made in the Bill for the introduction of this Island and of Newfoundland, into the Confederation, when when the proper time arrives. It is very hard to predict what is to be our fate. If we are to be made a mere appendage to the Confederation, without being represented in its councils, as is hinted in certain quarters, our condition will be truly deplorable; but if we are permitted, while still enjoying our present advantages, to look quietly on and watch the progress of the Great Experiment, with the privilege of taking advantage of its success at any time that pleases us, we think we may remain "out in the cold" a little while without suffering a very great deal.

A FRIEND of ours in St. Eleanor's received a letter a few days ago from New Orleans, dated 15th Feby., 1867. The writer is a native of New Brunswick, who left home quite a young man, and has, by industry and perseverance, acquired a handsome competence in the sunny South. He is very naturally attached to his adopted country, and gives a glowing picture of its natural capabilities. The following extract fairly makes one's mouth water after being five dreary months without seeing a green leaf or a blossoming plant:—"I consider the Southern States as among the most beautiful countries and climates in the world. You can imagine the beauties of this country, when I tell you that while you are ice-bound for months from shore to shore, we are enjoying weather such as your last of May and first of June. We have all kinds of vegetables fresh from the ground every day—no cellars here—we have oranges on the trees in abundence the whole winter through—we have our Mespelus or Japan plum tree now in full bearing loaded with ripe fruit, which blooms and forms and ripens in the dead of winter. We have had ripe strawberries for a month, the products of our gardens—they do not grow wild with us as with you. We have flowers of all shades and descriptions the whole year round, and fresh fish in any quantity every day."

Our friend's friend believes that a brilliant future is in store for the South. He considers that its agricultural resources are boundless, and that it has unequalled manufacturing and commercial facilities. It is, we fancy, not very difficult to see that the Southerners still entertain hopes of forming themselves into a new Nationality, second to none on this Continent. But we will let him speak for himself. He says—

"In regard to the manufacture of cotton, we have in this country the finest facilities in the world. Our water power cannot be excelled—no ice to stay our wheels, and the raw material at our very doors. Still it is hard to get up a manufacturing enterprise here. The people, it is true, have learned a lesson by the war, and by the war have become poor,