

## **Section 2.—Development of the Constitution Since Confederation**

Arrangements have been made with the Under Secretary of State for a companion article to that which appears under Section I; this will deal with constitutional developments since Confederation, and, it is expected, will be published in the 1943 Year Book.

Pending such publication the reader is referred to pp. 89-100 of the 1922-23 Year Book, where the evolution of the Constitution is traced to the period following the First World War. In the same edition, at pp. 101-115, will be found an account of the government of each of the provinces and their municipal institutions and judicial organization. The 1938 Year Book includes at pp. 92-93 an article entitled "The Government of Canada's Arctic Territory".

## **PART II.—LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES**

### **Section 1.—Dominion Parliament and Ministry**

The Dominion Parliament is composed of the King (represented by the Governor General), the Senate and the House of Commons. As a result of the working out of the democratic principle, the part played by the King's Representative and the Upper Chamber of Parliament in the country's legislation has been, in Canada as in the United Kingdom, a steadily decreasing one, the chief responsibilities involved in legislation being assumed by the House of Commons.

#### **Subsection 1.—The Governor General of Canada**

The Governor General is appointed by the King as his representative in Canada, usually for a term of five years, with a salary fixed at £10,000 sterling per annum, which is a charge against the consolidated revenue of the country. The Governor General is bound by the terms of his commission and instructions (which he must communicate to the King's Privy Council for Canada) and can exercise only such authority as is expressly entrusted to him. He acts under the advice of his Ministry, which is responsible to Parliament, and, as the acting head of the Executive, summons, prorogues and dissolves Parliament, and assents to or reserves bills. In the discharge of these and other executive duties, he acts entirely by and with the advice of his Ministry (the Governor General in Council). The royal prerogative of mercy in capital cases, formerly exercised on the Governor General's own judgment and responsibility, is now exercised pursuant to the advice of the Ministry. The practice whereby the Governor General served as the medium of communication between the Canadian and the British Governments has been given up; since July 1, 1927, direct communication between His Majesty's Government in Canada and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom has been instituted.