

Section 2.—The Development of the Constitution Since Confederation

A specially prepared article bringing the developments since Confederation up to date is published at pp. 41-47 of the 1943-44 Year Book. See also list of Special Articles under "Constitution and Government" at the front of this volume.

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 has been conducted between His Majesty's Government in Canada and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

1.—Governors General of Canada, 1867-1945

Name	Date of Appointment	Date of Assumption of Office
VISCOUNT MONCK, G.C.M.G.	June 1, 1867	July 1, 1867
LORD LISGAR, G.C.M.G.	Dec. 29, 1868	Feb. 2, 1869
THE EARL OF DUFFERIN, K.P., K.C.B., G.C.M.G.	May 22, 1872	June 25, 1872
THE MARQUIS OF LORNE, K.T., G.C.M.G.	Oct. 5, 1878	Nov. 25, 1878
THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE, G.C.M.G.	Aug. 18, 1883	Oct. 23, 1883
LORD STANLEY OF PRESTON, G.C.B.	May 1, 1888	June 11, 1888
THE EARL OF ABERDEEN, K.T., G.C.M.G.	May 22, 1893	Sept. 18, 1893
THE EARL OF MINTO, G.C.M.G.	July 30, 1898	Nov. 12, 1898
EARL GREY, G.C.M.G.	Sept. 26, 1904	Dec. 10, 1904
FIELD MARSHAL H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, K.G.	Mar. 21, 1911	Oct. 13, 1911
THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.	Aug. 19, 1916	Nov. 11, 1916
GENERAL THE LORD BYNG OF VIMY, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., M.V.O.	Aug. 2, 1921	Aug. 11, 1921
VISCOUNT WILLINGDON OF RATTON, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.B.E.	Aug. 5, 1926	Oct. 2, 1926
THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, G.C.M.G.	Feb. 9, 1931	Apr. 4, 1931
LORD TWEEDSMUIR OF ELSFIELD, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., C.H.	Aug. 10, 1935	Nov. 2, 1935
MAJOR-GENERAL THE EARL OF ATHLONE, K.G., P.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., D.S.O.	Apr. 3, 1940	June 21, 1940