

# CHAPTER III.—CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT

## CONSPECTUS

	PAGE		PAGE
<b>Part I.—The Constitution and General Government of Canada</b> .....	79	Subsection 9. British Columbia.....	114
SECTION 1. THE EVOLUTION OF THE CONSTITUTION DOWN TO CONFEDERATION.....	79	Subsection 10. Yukon and the Northwest Territories.....	116
SECTION 2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION SINCE CONFEDERATION.....	80	SECTION 3. DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS.....	116
<b>Part II.—Organization</b> .....	80	<b>Part III.—Canada's External Relations</b>	122
SECTION 1. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.....	80	SECTION 1. CANADA'S GROWTH IN EXTERNAL STATUS.....	122
Subsection 1. The Executive.....	80	SECTION 2. CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS.....	122
Subsection 2. The Legislature.....	84	<b>Part IV.—Diplomatic Representation.</b>	125
Subsection 3. The Judiciary.....	95	SECTION 1. REPRESENTATIVES OF CANADA IN OTHER COUNTRIES.....	125
SECTION 2. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.	102	Subsection 1. British Commonwealth Countries.....	125
Subsection 1. Prince Edward Island.	104	Subsection 2. Foreign Countries.....	126
Subsection 2. Nova Scotia.....	105	SECTION 2. REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN CANADA.....	130
Subsection 3. New Brunswick.....	106	Subsection 1. British Commonwealth Countries.....	130
Subsection 4. Quebec.....	108	Subsection 2. Foreign Countries.....	131
Subsection 5. Ontario.....	109		
Subsection 6. Manitoba.....	111		
Subsection 7. Saskatchewan.....	112		
Subsection 8. Alberta.....	113		

The government of Canada is provided for by the British North America Act of 1867.\* This Statute of the Imperial Parliament, as from time to time amended, forms the written basis of the constitution of Canada. Subsequent sections of this Chapter describe the processes by which the constitution has developed and the institutions, as at present constituted, by which Canada is governed.

The several stages in the development of the status of the Dominion have been authoritatively described in the reports of successive Imperial Conferences including that held at London in 1926, which defined the group of self-governing communities consisting of the United Kingdom and the Dominions as "autonomous communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or foreign affairs, though united by a common allegiance to the Crown and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations". That Conference also recognized that, as a consequence of this equality of status, the Governor General of a Dominion "is the representative of the Crown, holding in all essential respects the same position in relation to the administration of public affairs in the Dominion as is held by His Majesty the King in Great Britain", and that "it is the right of the Government of each Dominion to advise the Crown in all matters relating to its own affairs". Simultaneously, with this change in the constitutional relationship between the several parts of the British Commonwealth of Nations, there developed, as a complementary aspect of nationhood, the assumption by the several Dominions of further responsibilities and rights of sovereign States in their relations with other members of the community of nations. Membership in the League of Nations and, more recently in the United Nations, the exercise of treaty-making powers and the establishment of separate diplomatic representation in a number of foreign countries have characterized this phase in the growth of Canada. More explicit recognition of the implications of the

\* See pp. 40-60 of the 1942 Year Book for text of the original B.N.A. Act and notes regarding amendments and modifications thereto.