

**The Ministry.**—Canada's system of government is based upon that of the British, by which a Cabinet or Ministry (composed of members of the House of Commons or the Senate) is responsible to Parliament. The Cabinet is actually a committee of the King's Privy Council for Canada. Without enlarging upon the features of the system, it may be sufficient to note that the Cabinet is responsible to the House of Commons and, following established precedent, resigns office when it becomes evident that it no longer holds the confidence of the people's representatives. Members of the Cabinet are chosen by the Prime Minister; each generally assumes charge of one of the various Departments of Government, although a Minister may hold more than one portfolio at the same time, or may be without portfolio.

**2.—Prime Ministers Since Confederation**

Ministry	Prime Minister	Length of Administration
1	Rt. Hon. Sir JOHN ALEXANDER MACDONALD.....	July 1, 1867 - Nov. 5, 1873
2	Hon. ALEXANDER MACKENZIE.....	Nov. 7, 1873 - Oct. 16, 1878
3	Rt. Hon. Sir JOHN ALEXANDER MACDONALD.....	Oct. 17, 1878 - June 6, 1891
4	Hon. Sir JOHN JOSEPH CALDWELL ABBOTT.....	June 16, 1891 - Nov. 24, 1892
5	Hon. Sir JOHN SPARROW DAVID THOMPSON.....	Dec. 5, 1892 - Dec. 12, 1894
6	Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.....	Dec. 21, 1894 - Apr. 27, 1896
7	Rt. Hon. Sir CHARLES TUPPER.....	May 1, 1896 - July 8, 1896
8	Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER.....	July 11, 1896 - Oct. 6, 1911
9	Rt. Hon. Sir ROBERT LAIRD BORDEN.....	Oct. 10, 1911 - Oct. 12, 1917 (Conservative Administration)
10	Rt. Hon. SIR ROBERT LAIRD BORDEN.....	Oct. 12, 1917 - July 10, 1920 (Unionist Administration)
11	Rt. Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN.....	July 10, 1920 - Dec. 29, 1921 (Unionist—"National Liberal and Conservative Party")
12	Rt. Hon. WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE KING.....	Dec. 29, 1921 - June 28, 1926
13	Rt. Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN.....	June 29, 1926 - Sept. 25, 1926
14	Rt. Hon. WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE KING.....	Sept. 25, 1926 - Aug. 6, 1930
15	Rt. Hon. RICHARD BEDFORD BENNETT.....	Aug. 7, 1930 - Oct. 23, 1935
16	Rt. Hon. WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE KING.....	Oct. 23, 1935 - Nov. 15, 1948
17	Rt. Hon. LOUIS STEPHEN ST. LAURENT, K.C.....	Nov. 15, 1948 - —

**3.—Members of the Seventeenth Dominion Ministry as at Nov. 15, 1948**

(According to precedence of Ministers)

NOTE.—A complete list of the members of Dominion Ministries from Confederation to 1913 appears in the 1912 Year Book, pp. 422-429. Later Ministries will be found in the corresponding tables of subsequent editions of the Year Book. Parliamentary Assistants to the Cabinet Ministers are indicated by footnotes to Table 9.

Office	Occupant	Date of Appointment <sup>1</sup>
Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council.....	Rt. Hon. LOUIS STEPHEN ST. LAURENT, K.C.	{ Dec. 10, 1941 Nov. 15, 1948
Minister of Trade and Commerce.....	Rt. Hon. CLARENCE DECATUR HOWE.....	{ Oct. 23, 1935 Jan. 19, 1948
Minister of Agriculture.....	Rt. Hon. JAMES GARFIELD GARDINER.....	{ Oct. 28, 1935
Minister of Mines and Resources.....	Hon. JAMES ANGUS MACKINNON.....	{ Jan. 23, 1939 June 11, 1948
Secretary of State.....	Hon. COLIN WILLIAM GEORGE GIBSON, M.C., K.C., V.D.....	{ July 8, 1940 Dec. 12, 1946
Minister of Labour.....	Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL.....	{ Dec. 15, 1941
Minister of Public Works.....	Hon. ALPHONSE FOURNIER, K.C.....	{ Oct. 6, 1942
Postmaster General.....	Hon. ERNEST BERTRAND, K.C.....	{ Oct. 7, 1942 Aug. 29, 1945
Minister of National Defence.....	Hon. BROOKE CLAXTON, K.C.....	{ Oct. 13, 1944 Dec. 12, 1946
Solicitor General.....	Hon. JOSEPH ARTHUR JEAN, K.C.....	{ Apr. 18, 1945
Minister of Transport.....	Hon. LIONEL CHEVRIER, K.C.....	{ Apr. 18, 1945

For footnote, see end of table, p. 82.