

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 representatives of the people. 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	Rt. Hon. Sir JOHN SPARROW DAVID THOMPSON.....	Dec. 5, 1892 - Dec. 12, 1894
6	Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.....	Dec. 21, 1894 - Apr. 27, 1896
7	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 23, 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.....	Nov. 15, 1948 - ...

3.—Members of the Seventeenth Ministry as at Aug. 31, 1950

(According to precedence of Ministers)

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

Office	Occupant	Date of Appointment ¹
Prime Minister and President of the King's Privy Council for Canada.....	Rt. Hon. LOUIS STEPHEN ST. LAURENT.....	(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
Member of the Administration and Minister without Portfolio.....	Hon. JAMES ANGUS MACKINNON.....	(Jan. 23, 1939 Apr. 1, 1949)
Minister of Public Works.....	Hon. ALPHONSE FOURNIER.....	Oct. 6, 1942

For footnote, see end of table, p. 60.