

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 principles of equality of status was accorded in the Statute of Westminster of 1931, which provided for the removal of the remaining limitations on the legislative autonomy of the Commonwealth nations.

Thus Canada, under the Crown, has equality of status with the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth nations in both domestic and foreign affairs; its government advises the Crown in the person of the Governor General on all matters relating to Canada. Canada has membership in the United Nations; makes its own treaties; appoints its own ambassadors and other representatives abroad; levies its own taxes; makes its own laws which are executed by a government dependent on the will of a majority of the people; and maintains its own military, naval and air forces. In short, Canada has achieved the full status of democratic nationhood within the Commonwealth of Nations.

PART II.—MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT*

The Federal Parliament consists of the Governor General and the Privy Council (of which the Cabinet, or Ministry, is an active committee responsible to the Legislature for all matters of policy) at the head of the Executive Branch, the Senate and House of Commons comprising the Legislative Branch, and the Courts representing the Judicial Branch of government. There is no clearly defined separation of powers since those members of the Privy Council who are members of the Cabinet have seats in the Legislature, and within that body, in turn, the Senate exercises some judicial functions. Each of the provinces has a similar system. In both Federal and Provincial Governments there is responsible government whereby the Ministry is answerable for its conduct to the elected representatives of the people in the House of Commons or the Legislative Assemblies. This device is not mentioned in the British North America Act but, except for some modifications to meet local conditions, British practice has been followed. Under the constitution the Courts administer the law as it is drawn up and amended by the Legislature.

Section 1.—The Federal Government

Subsection 1.—The Executive

The Governor General.—The Governor General, appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister of Canada, traditionally serves for a term of five years. He exercises such authority as is entrusted to him under the Letters Patent constituting the Office of Governor General. Acting under the recommendations of his responsible advisers, and in accordance with the Letters Patent, he summons, prorogues and dissolves Parliament and assents to bills. New Letters Patent were issued under the Great Seal of Canada, effective Oct. 1, 1947, and under them he is empowered to exercise, on the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, any of the powers and authorities of the Crown in respect of Canada.

* Brought up to Mar. 31, 1952; Federal Government appointments made between that date and the closing off of the volume for press appear in the Annual Register at the end of this publication.