

the Cabinet (the Government) suffers defeat on a Government Bill or a vote of censure or on a motion of want of confidence in the Commons, the existing Government or Cabinet must either resign or request a dissolution from the Governor General. If it resigns, the Governor General may call on the Leader of the Opposition in the Commons to form a new Government. Alternatively, if a Government that has been defeated in the House is granted a dissolution and is defeated in the ensuing general election then, should no clear majority be indicated, the Government may decide (1) to remain in office and seek a vote of confidence in the House when it meets or (2) to resign immediately with the consequent result that the Governor General will ask the leader of the party with the highest number of members returned to form a new Government. These alternatives may also eventuate as a result of a general election subsequent to the normal dissolution of Parliament at or near the close of its statutory life.

The primary responsibility of the Governor General in either of the above circumstances is to provide the nation with a Cabinet or Ministry capable of conducting Her Majesty's Government with the support of the House of Commons.

Although appointed by the Governor General, Cabinet members are selected by the Prime Minister from among his party colleagues in such manner as to ensure, as far as possible, representation of the several geographical and political regions of the country and its principal ethnic, religious and social interests. Each Cabinet Minister generally assumes charge of one of the departments of government, although a Minister may hold more than one portfolio at the same time or he may hold one or more portfolios and one or more acting portfolios, or a Minister without Portfolio may hold one or more acting portfolios. In his acting capacity, the Minister exercises the same authority as if he were the Minister of the department. Sessional and other allowances received by Cabinet Ministers are given at pp. 99-100.

### 3.—Prime Ministers since Confederation, 1867

| 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<br>(Conservative Administration)                           |
| 10       | Rt. Hon. Sir ROBERT LAIRD BORDEN.....         | Oct. 12, 1917 — July 10, 1920<br>(Unionist Administration)                               |
| 11       | Rt. Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN.....                  | July 10, 1920 — Dec. 29, 1921<br>(Unionist—"National Liberal<br>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.....       | Nov. 15, 1948 — June 21, 1957  |
| 18       | Rt. Hon. JOHN GEORGE DIEFFENBAKER.....        | June 21, 1957 — ...  |