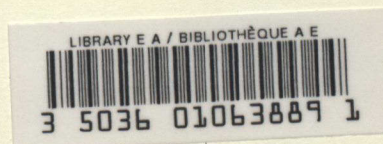


No such eventuality has yet developed, and no Governor General in this century has encountered difficulty in obtaining a Prime Minister. Although it is equally rare for a Governor General to refuse to accept a Prime Minister's advice, that did happen in 1926, precipitating a crisis in which most constitutional authorities agree the Governor General followed a correct course. While the Governor General is primarily an impartial head of state, a symbol of the nation, he is not necessarily a figurehead. He may appear to be so for several consecutive decades, but his latent powers continue to exist, like a safety-valve that is never used as long as everything is working well.

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