

Notary Public. A public officer, generally a member of the legal profession, appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to execute deeds and draw up legal documents. For these services he has the right to charge his client certain fees, which are fixed by law. One or more notaries are appointed for each municipality.

Order-in-Council. The written form, signed by the governor-general or by the lieutenant-governor, as the case may be, of an agreement or decision made by the cabinet.

Petit Jury. A jury consisting of not more than twelve members whose duty it is to hear evidence and decide matters of fact in important civil and criminal cases. *Petit* is a French word, meaning "small," and the term is used with reference to the petit jury to distinguish it from the "Grand" or large jury.

Poll. In an election, when the vote of each person is recorded either by himself on a ballot, or by a secretary in a book, a poll is said to be taken. The word comes from an old term, meaning "the head of a person"; hence a poll is, literally, a counting of heads.

Portfolio. A cabinet minister's duties in connection with the department of government of which he has charge. A minister without portfolio is one who is a member of the government executive, but who is not at the head of any department. The word *portfolio* is an imitation of the French word *porte-feuille*, the office of a minister.