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DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OF CANADA

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would prefer that the responsibility of acting in such a case should be undertaken by an Administrator rather than by his Deputy.

Having regard to the possibilities of the present situation, I make the following observations :

(1) If His Excellency should find it necessary to go to the Southern States to convalesce from his present illness, it would seem that unless his residence outside the Dominion exceeded one month, his official duties in Canada may properly be discharged by the Chief Justice of Canada as Deputy of the Governor General.

(2) If, however, the period of His Excellency's absence should coincide with a possible change of Government, involving the resignation of his present advisers, while technically the Chief Justice might receive the resignation of the members of the Government and obtain the assistance of new advisers, it would scarcely seem in harmony with the spirit of established constitutional practice that this important duty should be performed by the Chief Justice in his capacity as Deputy of the Governor General, but it would be preferable that the Chief Justice should assume office as Administrator.

(3) In the unhappy event of the death of the Governor General or of his becoming completely incapacitated for the performance of his duties, it

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