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DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
OF CANADA

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It seems quite clear that when an Administrator has assumed his duties as such, he has the same powers and authority as the Governor General. There have been instances when an Administrator has summoned Parliament for Despatch of Business and there has been one instance, March 12, 1931, when the Administrator opened Parliament. This was during the interval between the departure of Lord Willingdon and the arrival in Canada of Lord Bessborough. There has been an occasion when an Administrator has accepted the resignation of a Prime Minister and has asked the Leader of the Opposition to form a Government. This was the course followed in 1935, when the present Chief Justice of Canada was acting as Administrator during the interval between the departure of Lord Bessborough and the arrival of Lord Tweedsmuir.

Prima facie, since the only limitation in the Chief Justice's present Commission as Deputy of the Governor General is that he cannot dissolve Parliament, it would seem to follow that he could, as Deputy of the Governor General, approve changes in the Cabinet and, possibly, if occasion arose, receive the resignation of the Prime Minister and ask another person to form a Government. While, technically, this would seem to be within his power, I should think that the Governor General, if he could not in person receive the resignation of his Prime Minister

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