

advice, and it is his undoubted right to call upon any person he may choose to undertake the formation of a government. In actual practice, however, his choice is limited to the leader of the party which has the confidence of the majority in the House of Commons, or which, in all probability, will have control after the general election. As soon as the new prime minister accepts the responsibility of forming a Cabinet, he proceeds to choose, either from the House of Lords or the House of Commons, or from both, the men whom he wishes to associate with himself in the government of the country. The names, when decided upon, are submitted to the sovereign, and, if approved by him, the men take the oath of office and assume control of their various departments. As a general rule, each member of the Cabinet presides over an important department of the public service, although this is not necessarily the case. Neither does it follow that because the head of a certain department is a member of the Cabinet, his successor will necessarily also be a member of the Cabinet. Members of the Cabinet who are members of the House of Commons, on taking office, must at once go back to their constituencies for re-election. If their course in accepting an office to which a salary is attached is approved by the electors, they will be returned; if not, they will be defeated and thus compelled to resign.

As the members of the Cabinet give their whole time to their official duties, they are paid liberal salaries. Each Cabinet minister is responsible for his own department; but any matter of general importance, such as taxation or foreign relations, is discussed and decided upon by the Cabinet as a whole. After the Cabinet has once agreed upon a certain course of action, each Cabinet minister is bound to give it his loyal support, and if any minister has any serious disagreement with his colleagues, he is in duty bound to resign. The Cabinet must be a unit upon every question of importance.

The prime minister and his Cabinet really govern the country. They decide upon what policy shall be followed, whether at home or abroad; they advise and are responsible