

The texts reproduced in each case are the originals approved by the Governor General or Administrator and bearing the signature of the Prime Minister or Acting Prime Minister. A few Provincial Orders in Council and Orders in Council representing decisions of the Executive Council of Newfoundland are included in this initial volume.

Through the series, an attempt will be made to avoid excessive length, and yet to reflect the policies of the day as accurately as the available documents permit. Further, it is hoped that the balance and points of Canadian interest as between one subject and another can be preserved. Prolonged search among variants has been made in order to reproduce documents with as much faithfulness to the original as possible. Some obvious errors and peculiarities have been indicated by the word *sic*. In the spelling of names, it will be noticed that practice half a century ago occasionally varied from standard practice today. The positions or offices, rather than the names of persons involved in exchanges, have normally been used in the captions of documents, and complimentary salutations or closings have been abbreviated. Square brackets are reserved for words introduced by the editors. Round brackets are those found in the documents themselves.

Transcripts of telegrams were often unsigned. In such cases, the senders have been identified by rank in the caption, while names and dates of incumbency will be found in the index. The same principle applies to identification of despatches, memoranda and other documents not boasting a signature in the copy available for reproduction. When there is strong evidence of the identity of the author of a document, however, the name—in the absence of an actual signature—is shown enclosed in square brackets. Dates shown on telegrams are in some cases dates of submission for approval; in other cases, they are the dates of actual despatch.

The editors will make infrequent intervention, preferring to let the documents speak for themselves. Explanatory notes will be added occasionally, in some cases to call attention to other documents in the volume or to be found elsewhere, such as in the Sessional Papers. Nevertheless, footnotes will be kept to a minimum.

The documents in the present volume are arranged under seven chapter heads, with Chapters V and VII subdivided. Within each chapter or subdivision, the material appears in chronological order, except in part of Chapter III where Imperial Conference papers are kept together by conferences. While the topics chosen are those of principal concern during the period 1909-18, it is recognized that some readers will be pursuing themes which cut across the chapters, and that in some instances the allocation of documents to specific chapters is necessarily arbitrary. Material showing the desire of the Canadian government to be consulted regarding the conduct