

or the wishes of the majority in control of either chamber. They are subject to the president's will, by whom they may be dismissed, but they owe no responsibility to parliament. They neither prepare, introduce nor advocate before the chambers the adoption of legislative measures except in a limited way. Votes of censure or want of confidence do not affect them, they being independent of the legislative body. In a word Cabinet ministers in the United States are ministers of the President not of the Legislature, they are administrative chiefs rather than parliamentary leaders. From this will be seen the distinguishing features between the presidential and parliamentary or Cabinet systems. It is, the almost complete isolation of the executive branch from the legislature and the independence of the former with respect to its tenure and powers. This according to Montesquieu is what constitutes the doctrine of liberty.

Our Canadian Cabinet which bears a striking similarity to the British Cabinet is selected from the members of the Privy Council for Canada and forms the responsible advisory council of the sovereign's representative. Our Cabinet is responsible to the Lower House, or House of Commons, as is evident from the fact that it remains in power only while it holds a majority in this House. The Senate is entitled to, from two to four members and as a result we might say that the Cabinet is practically a committee of the two Houses. The Premier holds no portfolio being only the Chairman at the meetings of the Cabinet. He it is that informs the Governor-General of important matters of public policy, though every member has a right to communicate with the Governor-General on departmental matters. If the Premier resigns or dies, Cabinet ministers hold office until a new Premier is called.

From the foregoing may be seen in a general way the rise of the Cabinet system in England, the Mother of Parliaments, its spread to some of the European countries and finally its adoption by the United States and our own fair Dominion in which the system of government is inferior to none, reared as it is on the experience of other nations.

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