



Studia i Materiały. Miscellanea Oeconomicae

Rok 18, Nr 2/2014

Wydział Zarządzania i Administracji

Uniwersytetu Jana Kochanowskiego w Kielcach

**The Arctic and Nordic
Countries in the World of Economy and Politics**

Radosław Kubicki¹

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTRAL
ADMINISTRATION IN ICELAND IN THE PERIOD
OF THE FIRST CONSTITUTION OF ICELAND.
GOVERNORS AND THE FIRST MINISTERS
OF ICELAND**

The beginnings of the minister's office in Iceland date back to the second half of the nineteenth century. At that time, Iceland belonged to the Kingdom of Denmark. However, among the Icelanders demands for greater autonomy from the Danish government became increasingly popular much earlier. Already in the years of 1843-1845 the Icelandic parliament - the Althingi (Icelandic: Althing) had been re-established². By contrast, in 1871 the Danish Parliament (Danish: Rigsdagen) issued *Act on the Constitutional Position of Iceland in the Kingdom*, also known as unalterable law (literally: standing law, Icelandic: Stöðulögin)³. Although Iceland had been granted autonomy, the Danish government established in 1872 the office of a governor (Icelandic: Landshöfðingi) for the island⁴, without consulting the Althingi. The following year, a Danish lawyer of Icelandic origin -

¹ Radosław Kubicki, Ph.D., the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, Poland.

² S. Sagan, *Ustrój polityczny Republiki Islandii*, Rzeszów 2005, p. 26; M. Grzybowski, A. Pulit, *Althing – parlament Islandii*, Warsaw 2007, p. 8; *Alþingi*, [in:] G. Hálfðanarson, *Historical Dictionary of Iceland*, Lanham 2008, p. 7.

³ The copy of the Act in Danish available at : *Lov om Islands forfatningsmæssige stilling i riget af 2den Januar 1871*, <http://thomasthorsen.dk/pol/1871-constitutional-status-iceland.php>, [15.07.2014]; see also: B.T. Melsted, *Island (Forfatning og Forvaltning)*, [in:] *Salmonsens konversationsleksikon*, ed. Ch. Blangstrup, vol. 12, København 1922, p. 563; P. S. Baker, *The Danish Laws of Standing in 1871*, <http://www.humanities360.com/index.php/the-danish-laws-of-standing-in-1871-21130/>, [15.07.2014].

⁴ More on the office of the governor of Iceland see: U. Ingvarsson, *Frjálslyndisstefnan á landshöfðingjatímabilinu 1874 til 1904*, Reykjavík 1994; S.G. Magnússon, *Wasteland with Words. A Social History of Iceland*, London 2010, p. 33.

Søren Steindór Hilmar Finsen (see Table 1)⁵ became the first governor. Previously, from 1865, he represented the king of Denmark in the Althingi, and held the highest official position on the island known as stiftamtmaður⁶. In 1872, after establishing the office of landshöfðing, the office of stiftamtmaður was abolished. One of the reasons for that change was probably the fact that among a stiftamtmaður's responsibilities was supervising religious issues, and the previously mentioned Act of 1871 devolved these and some other issues to Icelanders⁷. Following Hilmar Finsen, the governor's office was held by true-born Icelanders: Bergur Thorberg and Magnús Stephensen. Both were lawyers and had already held an office of the governor (Icelandic: Amtmaður) of district (Icelandic: Amt)⁸.

Table 1. The governors of Iceland in the years 1873-1904.

	First name and surname	Holding period (years)
1.	Hilmar Finsen	1873-1882
2.	Bergur Thorberg	1882-1886
3.	Magnús Stephensen	1886-1904

Sources: K. Kaalund, *Thorberg Bergur*, [in:] *Dansk biografisk lexikon*, ed. C. F. Brick, vol. 17, Kjøbenhavn 1903, p. 248; B. T. Melsted, *Finsen Søren Hilmar Steindór*, [in:] *Salmonsens konversationsleksikon*, ed. Ch. Blangstrup, vol. 8, Kjøbenhavn 1919, p. 108; B. T. Melsted, *Stephensen Magnús*, [in:] *ibidem*, vol. 22, Kjøbenhavn 1927, p. 274.

Establishing the office of the governor, without the consent of the Althingi, had resulted in fierce protests on the island. They induced the Danish monarch Christian IX to enact the first constitution of the Iceland. The act took place on January 5, 1874, during the celebration of the millennium of settlement on the island. Under the constitution, the king of Denmark held the supreme power over Iceland⁹. Moreover, he had the capacity to appoint, dismiss or transfer to another

⁵ More on H. Finsen see i.a.: H. Sveinsson, *Æfíagrip Hilmars Finsen landshöfðingja*, "Andvari", 1895, ann. 20, pp. V-XXVIII; S. Bjarnason, *Hilmar Finsen landshöfðingi*, "Óðinn", 1924, ann. 20, no. 1-6, pp. 1-5; *Nidur med landshöfðingjanim. Ólga í reykjavík fyrir 80 árum*, "Lesbók Morgunblaðsins", 1953, ann. 28, no. 26, pp. 407-410; *Finsen Hilmar* [in:] A. Falk-Jensen and H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 1, Kjøbenhavn 1954, p. 396.

⁶ *Kjörnir konungsfulltrúar*, <http://www.althingi.is/vefur/konfu.html>, [15.07.2014].

⁷ *Lov om Islands forfatningsmæssige stilling i riget*, *op.cit.*, § 3.

⁸ *Zob.: Stephensen Magnús*, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen and H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, t. 4, Kjøbenhavn 1958, pp. 152-153; *Thorberg Bergur Ólafsson*, [in:] *ibidem*, pp. 220-221; more on the office of amtmaður see i.a.: *Amtmaður* [in:] G. Hálfðanarson, *Historical*, *op.cit.*, p. 9.

⁹ B. Taylor, *Egypt and Iceland*, New York 1879, pp. 213-221; A. Marciniakówna, *Republika Islandii*, Warsaw 1978, p. 38; J.Z. Pająk, *Chrystian IX*, [in:] J.Z. Pająk, A. Penkalla, J. Szczepański, *Słownik biograficzny XIX wieku*, Toruń 2005, p. 121; *Constitution of 1874*, [in:] G. Hálfðanarson, *Historical*, *op.cit.*, pp. 34-35; more on the beginnings of settlement on Iceland, see i.a.: P.G. Foote, D. M. Wilson, *Wikingowie*, Warsaw 1975, pp. 73-77; *Arnarson Ingólfur*, [in:] G. Hálfðanarson, *Historical*, *op.cit.*, p. 11; the travel of the monarch Christian IX to Iceland in 1874 was the first visit of a Danish king on the island, see: T. Cieślak, *Zarys historii najnowszej krajów skandynawskich*, Warsaw 1978, p. 116.

position any official (on condition that their salary would remain at the same level or would be higher), except judges (Icelandic: Dómri)¹⁰. Furthermore, every official was obliged to have the appropriate competencies needed to carry out the duties and responsibilities assigned to them¹¹. The Althingi, together with the king of Denmark held the legislative power in Iceland¹², while, under the Constitution, the executive power rested with the monarch and judges. Most importantly, thanks to that Constitution the office of the governor of Iceland was legally approved and the office of the Minister (advisor) for Iceland (Icelandic: islandsráðherra), with the seat in Copenhagen, was established¹³. These officials were appointed by the king. The monarch also defined the jurisdiction of the governor, who held the highest power in Iceland and was a member of the Althingi.

The Icelandic Parliament was granted the right to make the governor bear full responsibility for unlawful use of force. The seat of the governor was the present government building (Icelandic: Stjórnarráðshússins) in Reykjavík, which was built in the second half of the eighteenth century and originally served as a prison. After its reconstruction, the royal gardens were located there, and it also became the seat of the stiftamtmaður¹⁴.

The governor, however, was directly subordinate to the adviser for Iceland (Icelandic: Íslandsráðgjafi), who, in the Danish government, was responsible for Icelandic affairs, with particular emphasis on the supervision of Icelandic administration and the laws passed by the Althingi. This office was often referred to as the Icelandic Ministry or the Ministry for Iceland. The position of the advisor was held by successive justice ministers in the Danish government¹⁵. Therefore, it is not surprising, that each person holding the position of the minister for Iceland received legal education and was of Danish origin¹⁶. The first Minister for Iceland was Sophus Christian Klein, appointed on August 1, 1874. His successor, Johannes Magnus Valdemar Nellemann, continuously stayed in the office for the

¹⁰ *Stjórnarskrá um hin sjerstaklegu málefni Íslands*, 1874, no.1, 5 January, art. 1-2, http://www.forsaetisraduneyti.is/media/stjornarskra/1874_stjornarskra.pdf, [15.07.2014].

¹¹ *Ibidem*, art. 4, 44.

¹² *Ibidem*, art. 1 et al.

¹³ *Ibidem*, art. 2, 3, 34 and 39; see also: B. Taylor, *Egypt*, *op.cit.*, p. 269.

¹⁴ *Ágrip af byggingarsögu Stjórnarráðshússins*, <http://www.forsaetisraduneyti.is/raduneyti/stjornaradshusid/nr/345>, [15.07.2014].

¹⁵ B.T. Melsted, *Island (Forfatning og Forvaltning)*, *op.cit.*, p. 563.

¹⁶ See: C.S.A. Bille, *Klein Christian Sophus*, [in:] *Dansk biografisk lexikon*, ed. C.F. Brick, vol. 9, Kjøbenhavn 1895, pp. 211-216; M.P. Friis, *Nellemann Johannes Magnus Valdemar*, [in:] *ibidem*, vol. 12, Kjøbenhavn 1898, pp. 169-174; M. P. Friis, *Rump Nicolai Reimer*, [in:] *ibidem*, vol. 14, Kjøbenhavn 1900, pp. 426-427; F. Dahl, *Goos August Herman Ferdinand Carl*, [in:] *Dansk biografisk leksikon*, ed. P. Engelstoft, vol. 8, Kjøbenhavn 1935, pp. 221-229; *Peter Adler Alberti*, [in:] H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Danske sagførere under loven af 26. maj 1868*, Kjøbenhavn 1941, p. 10; *Hugo Egmont Hørring*, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen i H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 2, Kjøbenhavn 1955, pp. 247; *Klein Christian Sophus*, [in:] *ibidem*, vol. 2, pp. 372-373; *Nellemann Johannes Magnus Valdemar*, [in:] *ibidem*, vol. 3, Kjøbenhavn 1957, p. 236; *Rump Nicolai Reimer*, [in:] *ibidem*, vol. 3, p. 447.

period of more than 20 years, which so far has been the longest holding period (see. Table 2). It is symptomatic, that despite such a long term, he neither had visited Iceland nor spoke the Icelandic language¹⁷. This fact questions the importance of Icelandic issues to the government of Denmark. It should also be pointed out, that in practice, the department for Iceland had existed since 1848¹⁸. Initially, it functioned as part of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and then, in 1855, it was devolved on the Ministry of Justice. In addition to Iceland, it also dealt with Greenland and the Faroe Islands¹⁹.

Table 2. Danish ministers for Iceland and ministers of justice in Danish government from 1874 to 1904.

	Name	Holding period in the office of		Prime Minister	
		Minister for Iceland	Minister of Justice	Name	Term of office
1.	Christian Klein	01.08.1874-11.06.1875	14.07.1874 ^a -11.06.1875	Christen Fonnesbech	14.07.1874-11.06.1875
2.	Johannes Nellemann	11.06.1875-07.08.1894	11.06.1875-07.08.1894	Jacob Estrup	11.06.1875-07.08.1894
		07.08.1894-13.06.1896	07.08.1894-13.06.1896	Tage Reedtz-Thott	07.08.1894-23.05.1897
3.	Nicolai Rump	13.06.1896-23.05.1897	13.06.1896-23.05.1897	Hugo Hørring	23.05.1897-27.04.1900
		23.05.1897-28.08.1899	23.05.1897-28.08.1899		
4.	Hugo Hørring	28.08.1899-27.04.1900	28.08.1899-27.04.1900		
5.	Carl Goos	27.04.1900-24.07.1901	27.04.1900-24.07.1901	Hannibal Sehested	27.04.1900-24.07.1901
6.	Peter Alberti	24.07.1901-31.01.1904	24.07.1901-14.01.1905 ^b	Johan Deuntzer	24.07.1901-14.01.1905

^a – Ch. Klein held the position of Justice Minister also in the previous government of Ludvig Holstein-Holsteinborg, from 26 June 1872; ^b – P. Alberti held the position of Justice Minister also in the successive government of J. Christensen, until 24 July 1908.

Sources: *Regeringer fra 1848 – 1901*, http://www.stm.dk/p_8175.html, [15.07.2014]; *Regeringen Deuntzer*, http://www.stm.dk/p_5461.html, [15.07.2014]; *Goos August Herman Ferdinand Carl*, [w:] A. Falk-Jensen i H. Hjørth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 2, København 1955, p. 32.

¹⁷ G. Friðrikssonar, *Erindi Guðjóns Friðrikssonar um Hannes Hafstein*, <http://www.heimastjorn.is/myndbond/nr/114.html>, [15.07.2014].

¹⁸ The office for Iceland in Copenhagen was also mentioned in the Act of 1871, see: *Lov om Islands forfatningsmæssige stilling i riget*, op.cit., § 6.

¹⁹ *Ministeriet for Island*, http://www.denstoredanske.dk/Samfund,_jura_og_politik/Samfund/Ministerier,_styrelser,_udvalg_og_råd/Ministeriet_for_Island, [15.07.2014]; see also: *Jón Sigurðsson og stjórnarskráin*, <http://www.heimastjorn.is/leidin-til-sjalfstaedis/Jon-Sigurdsen/index.html>, [15.07.2014].

After ratification of the constitution of 1874 and establishing the offices of the governor and minister for Iceland, Icelanders began the struggle for obtaining further concessions from the Danish government as well as strengthening and increasing the already granted autonomy. From 1881 till 1918, which was the year when Denmark and already sovereign Iceland formed a union, the Althingi proposed 22 amendments to the constitution, including the 15 ones proposed before 1903²⁰. The proposed amendments were rejected by the successive Danish monarchs and governments. Nevertheless, during that period, two amendments to the constitution of Iceland were adopted. The demands for introducing amendments to the constitution, including the demand for establishing the body of supreme executive authority for Iceland on the territory of Iceland, were finally met. The constitution of 1874 was first amended on October 3, 1903. The change had been passed by the Althingi and then approved by the Danish King Christian IX. The amendment stipulated that the Ministry for Iceland should have its seat in Reykjavík, not in Copenhagen, in the building previously occupied by the governor. Furthermore, the person holding the office of the Minister for Iceland was obliged to make regular business trips to the capital of Denmark. Besides, they should be able to use Icelandic language both in speaking and writing fluently. It was also emphasized, that the minister for Iceland was not allowed to be the head of another ministry at the same time. Under the amendment, the minister for Iceland was subordinate to the Althingi, not to the Danish parliament. They also had to receive the support of most members of the Althingi. Moreover, the Parliament of Iceland was given the right to express a vote of no confidence in the Minister of Iceland. In case the motion of no confidence was voted for, the minister would have to resign from the office. However, the minister was allowed to remain in the office despite the change of successive governments in Denmark (see Table 3). In addition, the person for the office of the Minister was still appointed by the Danish king²¹.

Several candidates were put up for the position of the Minister for Iceland with the seat in Reykjavík. Among the most prospective candidates were: Ólafur Halldórsson (1855-1930) - Icelandic lawyer and former director in the Ministry for Iceland in Copenhagen, he had already received support from the former minister Peter Alberti; Magnús Stephensen (1836-1917) - the last governor of Iceland, Dr Valtýr Guðmundsson (1860-1928) - a historian, editor of a magazine, Icelandic parliamentarian and the author of some of the proposed changes to the Constitution of 1874; Clement Jónsson (1862-1930) - a lawyer, a writer, a former assistant in the Ministry for Iceland in Copenhagen, a sheriff and an Icelandic deputy and Hannes Hafstein (Hannes Þórður) - a well-known poet, one of the leaders of the Icelandic Party of Autonomy (Icelandic: Heimastjórnarflokkurinn), which at that time had the majority in the Althing. Hafstein represented the party during the talks with the Danish

²⁰ More on the amendments to the constitution of Iceland proposed by the Althing, see: G.H. Kristinssyni, *Ágrip af þróun stjórnarskrárinnar*, [Reykjavík] 2005, pp. 7-8.

²¹ *Stjórnarskrá um hin sjerstaklegu málefni Íslands uppfærð með breytingum frá 1903*, art. 2-3, http://www.forsaetisraduneyti.is/media/stjornarskra/1903_svo_breytt.pdf, [15.07.2014]; see also, i.a.: A.H. Clark, *Iceland and Greenland*, Washington 1943, p. 30; *Home Rule*, [in:] G. Hálfdanarson, *The A to Z of Iceland*, Lanham 2010, pp. 96-97.

authorities, concerning the proposed amendments to the constitution of Iceland²². Eventually, the last of the above mentioned candidates was appointed the Minister for Iceland, as he received general recognition from the then Danish authorities. He took office on February 1, 1904. It should also be noted, that the appointed minister is also referred to as the first Prime Minister in the history of Iceland²³.

Table 3. The Ministers for Iceland in Danish governments from 1904 till 1917.

	Minister for Iceland		Prime Minister		King of Denmark					
	Name	Term	Name	Term	Name	Period of reign				
1.	Hannes Hafstein	01.02.1904-31.03.1909	Johan Deuntzer	24.07.1901-14.01.1905	Chrystian IX	15.11.1863-29.01.1906				
			Jens Christensen	14.01.1905-24.07.1908						
			Jens Christensen	24.07.1908-12.10.1908	Fryderyk VIII	29.01.1906-14.05.1912				
			Niels Neergaard	12.10.1908-16.08.1909						
2.	Björn Jónsson	31.03.1909-14.03.1911	Ludvig Holstein-Ledreborg	16.08.1909-28.10.1909			Chrystian X	14.05.1912-20.04.1947		
			Carl Zahle	28.10.1909-05.07.1910						
			Klaus Berntsen	05.07.1910-21.06.1913						
			3.	Kristján Jónsson	14.03.1911-25.07.1912					
4.	Hannes Hafstein	25.07.1912-21.07.1914				Carl Zahle			21.06.1913-29.03.1920	
										5.
							6.	Einar Arnórsson		

Sources: *Ráðherrar Íslands störfuðu frá 1. febrúar 1904 - 4. janúar 1917*, <http://www.stjornarrad.is/rikisstjornartal-fyrri/nr/119>, [15.07.2014]; *Regeringer fra 1901 – 1953*, http://www.stm.dk/p_8174.html, [15.07.2014]; G. Szelągowska, *Dania*, Warszawa 2010, pp. 419, 421.

²² About the candidates for the position of the Minister for Iceland in Reykjavík from 1903 till 1904 see i.a.: E.Þ. Bernharðsson, *Alþingismenn og úrslit þingkosninga á landshöfðingjatímanum. Kosningahandbók fyrir árin 1874-1904*, <https://notendur.hi.is/~eggthor/kosning.html>, [15.07.2014]; K. Kaalund, *Stephensen Magnús*, [in:] *Dansk biografisk lexikon*, wyd.. C.F. Brick, t. 16, Kjøbenhavn 1902, p. 417; B. T. Melsted, *Halldórsson Ólafur*, [in:] *Salmonsens konversationsleksikon*, ed. Ch. Blangstrup, vol. 10, København 1920, p. 692; J. Helgason, *Guðmundsson Valtýr*, [in:] *Dansk biografisk leksikon*, ed. P. Engelstofta, vol. 8, København 1935, p. 434; the Party of Autonomy already existed between 1900 and 1923, see: V.E. McHale, *Political Parties of Europe*, [s. l.] 1983, p. 521.

²³ *Former Prime Ministers*, http://eng.forsætisraduneyti.is/minister/Former_Ministers/, [15.07.2014].

Hannes Hafstein was born in Iceland in 1861, so at the moment of taking the office was 43 years old. He graduated from the University of Copenhagen with a degree in law. He was a member of the Althingi in the years of 1900-1901, 1903-1915 and 1916-1922²⁴. Before taking Minister's office, he had also held the position of a sheriff (Icelandic: sýslumaður), the judge in the Main Court of Appeal (Icelandic: Landsyfirréttur) in Iceland and the secretary to the last governor Magnus Stephensen²⁵. From the formal point of view, it should also be noted, that by taking the office of the Ministry for Iceland in 1904, Hannes Hafstein at the same time became part of the existing Danish government of Johan Henrik Deuntzer²⁶. He remained in the position continuously in the successive Danish governments of Jens Christian Christensen and Niels Thomasius Neergaard (see Table 3), up to 31 March 1909, when he resigned from his office²⁷. His resignation from the office had place after the Althingi had voted for motion of no confidence in him in February that year. No confidence motion resulted from the fact that a large group of MPs, who had been supporting Hannes Hafstein, had not received mandates to the Althingi in 1908²⁸.

It is also noteworthy, that in the first period of holding the Minister's office by Hannes Hafstein, the economy enjoyed considerable growth rate (the so called Icelandic industrial revolution). It was caused not only by the systematic changes taking place in Iceland itself, but it also reflected the general trend of development of this part of the world. First of all, the mechanisation of fisheries and agriculture, the key Icelandic economic sectors was introduced. Additionally, the process of reforestation of the island had been started. In 1904, Danish and Norwegian financiers founded the Bank of Iceland (Icelandic: Islandsbanki), which allowed the Icelandic fishermen and entrepreneurs to raise the necessary capital to develop their business²⁹. In addition, an overseas cable connection was established and the construction of internal telecommunication system was started. Moreover, the transport system was being developed through the construction of roads and bridges in Iceland. The process of electrification of the island and the construction of hydroelectric power plants was initiated. There was also a significant increase both in the domestic as well the foreign trade³⁰. The National Museum with the

²⁴ However, due to his illness, he took part in the meeting of the parliament for the last time in 1917 see: *Hannes Hafstein (Hannes Þórður)*, <http://www.althingi.is/altext/cv/is/?nfaerslunr=232>, [15.07.2014].

²⁵ *Landsyfirréttardómar og hæstaréttardómar í íslenskum málum*, vol. 2, ed. K. Ó. Þorgrímssonar, Reykjavík 1890, p. 550.

²⁶ About the government of J. H. Deuntzer, see: W. Czapliński, K. Górski, *Historia Danii*, Wrocław 1965, p. 321-324.

²⁷ About the governments of J. Ch. Christensen and N. T. Neergaard see: W. Czapliński, *Dzieje Danii nowożytnej (1500-1975)*, Warszawa 1982, pp. 244-247.

²⁸ *Aðdragandi heimastjórnar og heimastjórnarárin*, <http://www.heimastjorn.is/myndbond/fyrirlestrar/index.html> [15.07.2014]; *Home Rule*, op.cit., p. 97.

²⁹ *Islandsbanki is back!*, <http://www.islandsbanki.is/english/about-islandsbanki/news/news-item/?NewsID=65807bd9-1b2d-4972-846d-cb1d7203bbaf>, [15.07.2014].

³⁰ G. Magnússon, *Atvinnulíf á heimastjórnartímabilinu*, <http://www.heimastjorn.is/heimastjornartiminn/atvinnulif/>, [15.07.2014].

collections of archival records, books, and other exhibits in Hverfisgötu (Icelandic: Safnahúsið við Hverfisgötu) in Reykjavík was constructed. Shortly afterwards, in 1911, on a hundredth anniversary of birth of the nineteenth-century independence activist, Jón Sigurðsson, the University of Iceland (i.e. Háskóli Íslands) in Reykjavík was founded³¹.

Besides, legislative work had been developed. The minister Hannes Hafstein himself submitted to the Althingi over a hundred bills regulating such issues as education, municipal law, and the protection of monuments. At that time, a law regulating the issue of liability of the most important official in Iceland was passed. On 4 March 1904, so about a month after assuming the post of Minister for Iceland by Hannes Hafstein, the *Act on Liability of the Minister of Iceland* was passed. It was quite rigorous to the persons holding that office. It stated that the Minister had to answer for their actions or lack thereof, at the request of the Danish government. Moreover, they could be held liable if intentionally or negligently broke the constitution of Iceland or other laws and acted to the detriment of residents. The minister was primarily liable for:

- submitting to the king of Denmark laws, acts, regulations and other provisions for his approval, if they were contrary to the Constitution of Iceland and the law,
- initiating actions and giving commands contrary to the Constitution of Iceland and neglecting their mandatory duties,
- planning and implementation of measures to limit the freedom and autonomy of Iceland.

In addition, the minister could be held liable for failure to submit to the king the documents and applications, which legally required the signature of the monarch. They also bore full responsibility for taking and initiating activities, that although were not contrary to the law, violated public or private good. Furthermore, the minister should make efforts to prevent any public or private losses possible to predict. That particularly applied to the situations, in which it was known that the failure in taking an action would result in some negative consequences. The above mentioned offenses could result in minister's removal from the office or high fines to the Treasury. Moreover, in the case of receiving a punishment, the minister additionally might have to pay the compensation for losses, which were the result of their activity or to which they contributed. This law also stipulated that in the case of committing crime by the Minister, they would be subject to a penalty resulting from the provisions of the Criminal Code, like any other citizen. It can therefore be concluded, that the minister was not

³¹ T. Cieślak, *Zarys, op.cit.*, pp. 91, 175-176; E. Młyńska, *Islandzkie szkolnictwo wyższe*, <http://www.wsp.krakow.pl/konspekt/konspekt7/mlynska7.html>, [15.07.2014]; *History*, <http://english.hi.is/history>, [15.07.2014]; H. S. Kjartansson, *Menntun*, <http://www.heimastjorn.is/heimastjornartiminn/menntun/index.html>, [15.07.2014]; E. Þ. Bernharðsson, *Háskólaborgin Reykjavík*, <https://notendur.hi.is/~eggthor/haskolaborginAdal.htm>, [15.07.2014]; about J. Sigurðsson see: *Jon Sigurdsson (Jón Sigurðsson) – wielki patriota islandzki*, „Islandia”, no. 3, 1996, <http://www.islandia.org.pl/sigurdss.html>, [15.07.2014].

provided with any immunity protection. The Act, however, defined the period to file charges. If the Althingi had not taken legal action against the Minister within 5 years from committing crime, they were not be held responsible for it³².

In 1909, the editor of a popular Icelandic magazine “Ísafold” - Björn Jónsson from the Independence Party (Icelandic: Sjálfstæðisflokkinn)³³ was appointed the minister for Iceland. Like Hannes Hafstein, he studied law at the University of Copenhagen, however he did not complete his studies. Previously, he held the position of a councilor in Reykjavík and was a member of the Althingi³⁴. In the future, his son, Sveinn Björnsson³⁵, became the first president of Iceland. Shortly after taking the office by Jónsson, the president of National Bank (Icelandic: Landsbanki) in Reykjavík, among other people, was imprisoned. The president of the Bank, Tryggvi Gunnarsson, was Hannes Hafstein’s mother’s (Katrín Gunnarsdóttir Kristján Havstein) brother³⁶. The act of imprisonment was seen as a manifestation of political persecution, and finally in 1911 the Althingi passed a vote of no confidence in Jónsson³⁷.

The successive minister for Iceland was appointed by the King Frederick VIII of Denmark. The newly elected minister, a Catholic Kristján Jónsson, graduated from the University of Copenhagen with the degree in law. Previously, he served, among others, as a sheriff and a judge and was a member of the Althingi³⁸. His nomination was not recognised by all political elites in Iceland due to Kristján’s Catholicism, as the vast majority of the Icelanders were Lutherans. Also the Constitution of Iceland of 1874 stipulated that the Evangelical-Lutheran Church was the State Church of

³² *Lov om den islandske ministers ansvarlighed. (af 4. marts 1904)*, [in:] *Betænkning om ministrenes ansvar for regeringens førelse samt om, hvorvidt en særlig ministeransvarlighedslov bør gennemføres*, København 1962, p. 119.

³³ The Independence Party, to which B. Jónsson belonged, existed in Iceland from 1907 till 1927; it was founded in 1907 as a merger of Democratic Party (Icelandic: Þjóðræðisflokkur) the Party Of National Defence (Icelandic: Landvarnaflokkur); in 1916 it split into: Sjálfstæðisflokkinn Þversum and Sjálfstæðisflokkinn Langsum see: B.T. Melsted, *Island (Historie)*, [in:] *Salmonsens konversationsleksikon*, ed. Ch. Blangstrup, vol. 12, København 1922, p. 593; V.E. McHale, *Political, op.cit.*, pp. 521-523 et al.; E.F. Jóhannsson, *Upp með þúsund radda brag*, <http://www.mbl.is/greinasafn/grein/778394/> [15.07.2014]; today’s Independence Party (Icelandic: Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn) was founded in 1929, see: *About the Independence Party*, http://www.eldhorn.is/bet/xd_english.htm, [15.07.2014].

³⁴ Björn Jónsson, <http://www.althingi.is/altext/cv/is/?nfaerslun=83>, [15.07.2014].

³⁵ See i.a.: Sveinn Björnsson, <http://www.forseti.is/Fyrirforsetar/SveinnBjornsson/>, [15.07.2014]; Sveinn Björnsson fyrsti innlendur þjóðhöfðingi Íslendinga. *Æviferill og lífsstarf*, „Morgunblaðið”, 26 January 1952, pp. 7-8; Björnsson Sveinn, [in:] G. Hálfðanarson, *Historical, op.cit.*, pp. 21-22.

³⁶ The parents of K. K. Gunnarsdóttir Havstein and T. Gunnarsson were Gunnar Gunnarsson and Jóhanna Kristjana Gunnlaugsdóttir Briem, see: *Hannes Hafstein – Tripod*, <http://genealogy14.tripod.com/HannesHafstein.html>, [15.07.2014]; Gunnarsson Tryggvi, [in:] *Krak’s Blaa bog: tre tusinde nulevende danske mænd og kvinders levnedsløb indtil aar 1910*, Kjøbenhavn 1910, p. 143.

³⁷ B.T. Melsted, *Island (Historie)*, *op.cit.*, pp. 593-594; see also: B.T. Melsted, *Jónsson Björn*, [in:] *Salmonsens konversationsleksikon*, ed. Ch. Blangstrup, vol. 13, København 1922, p. 159.

³⁸ Kristján Jónsson, <http://www.althingi.is/altext/cv/is/?nfaerslun=393>, [15.07.2014]; see also: *Jonsson Kristján*, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen and H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 2, København 1955, p. 316.

Iceland³⁹. Nevertheless, Kristján Jónsson initially gained the support of the Party of Autonomy, and even of some members of the Independence Party. He was also one of the founders of the first Party of Development (Icelandic: Framsóknarflokkurinn)⁴⁰. Yet, the members of the Althingi considered him as an independent politician. It is noteworthy, that during his tenure, the Althingi passed a law, which guaranteed women equal rights in education and in holding public offices⁴¹.

Table 4. Basic information about the Ministers for Iceland from 1904 till 1917.

	Minister's name	Holding period	Time of holding	Age at the time of taking office	Membership in Party
1.	Hannes Hafstein	01.02.1904-31.03.1909	1885 days (5 years, 1 month, 30 days)	43	Party of Autonomy
2.	Björn Jónsson	31.03.1909-14.03.1911	713 days (1 year, 11 months, 14 days)	62	Independence Party
3.	Kristján Jónsson	14.03.1911-25.07.1912	499 days (1 year, 4 months, 11 days)	59	independent
4.	Hannes Hafstein	25.07.1912-21.07.1914	726 days (1 year, 11 months, 26 days)	51	Union Party
5.	Sigurður Eggerz	21.07.1914-04.05.1915	287 days (9 months, 13 days)	39	Independence Party
6.	Einar Arnórsson	04.05.1915-04.01.1917	611 days (1 year, 8 months)	35	Independence Party Langsum

Source: *Ráðherrar Íslands 1904-1917*, <http://www.althingi.is/vefur/rahis.html> [15.07.2014].

³⁹ *Stjórnarskrá um hin sjerstaklegu málefni Íslands*, 1874, no. 1, 5 January, *op.cit.*, art. 45; about religions in Iceland see also i.a.: B. Kumor, *Kościół katolicki*, [in:] *Encyklopedia katolicka*, vol. 7, ed. S. Wielgus, J. Duchniewski, M. Daniluk [et al.], Lublin 1997, col. 523-524; E. Gigilewicz, *Kościół protestancki*, [in] *ibidem*, col. 524.

⁴⁰ In 1897 independence activists founded the Party of Development (Icelandic: Framfaraflokkurinn), sometimes referred to as Guðmundsson'ske Parti, after its leader's (Valtýr Guðmundsson) name. In 1902 it changed its name to Framsóknarflokkurinn, which is also translated as the Party of Development. In 1905 it again changed its name, this time to Democratic Party (Icelandic: Þjóðræðisflokkur), see: B. T. Melsted, *Island (Historie)*, *op.cit.*, pp. 590-591, 593; it is also noteworthy, that the today's Party of Development (Icelandic: Framsóknarflokkurinn) on the Iceland's political arena was founded in the late 1916, see: *Sagan – Í tímans rás*, <http://www.framsokn.is/sagan-i-timans-ras/>, [15.07.2014]; *Saga flokksins*, <http://wayback.vefsafn.is/wayback/20080714234002/http://www.framsokn.is/Flokkurinn/Sagan-Itimansras>, [15.07.2014].

⁴¹ See: *Lög um rétt kvenna til embættisnáms, námsstyrks og embættis*, 1911, no 37, 11 July, <http://www.althingi.is/lagas/139b/1911037.html>, [15.07.2014]; E. H. Halldórsdóttir, *Hannes Hafstein og kvenfrelsið*, <http://www.heimastjorn.is/fyrsti-radherrann/kvenrettindi/index.html>, [15.07.2014]; Earlier, in 1907 in Reykjavík, and in 1909, within the territory of the whole Iceland, women were granted right to vote and to stand for elections for local governments, see: E. H. Halldórsdóttir, *Kvenréttindi*, <http://www.heimastjorn.is/heimastjornartiminn/kvenrettindi/index.html>, [15.07.2014].

In autumn 1911, early election to the Althingi was called. It was won by the politicians associated with the Party of Autonomy, and as a result, in July 1912, again Hans Hafstein⁴² was appointed the Minister for Iceland. This time, he represented the Union Party (Icelandic: Sambandsflokkurinn), and was appointed to the position by the new king of Denmark, Christian X. During his term of office on October 20, 1913, the Althingi passed the Act on Statistics of Iceland (Icelandic: *Lög um hagstofu Íslands*). By its virtue, in 1914, an institute called Statistics of Iceland (Icelandic: Hagstofa Íslands) was established. The institute had the formal status of the ministry until 2007⁴³.

In the subsequent parliamentary election, which took place in the spring of 1914, the Party of Autonomy obtained a weaker result, and the Independence Party, which won the election⁴⁴, was more successful. The loss together with Hans Hafstein's deteriorating health resulted in appointing, on 21 July 1914, a new Minister for Iceland, Sigurd Eggerz. In the years of 1915-1917 the office was held by a lecturer Einar Arnórsson. It is worth noting that both, Eggerz and Arnórsson were the youngest to hold the office of the Minister for Iceland, as at the time of taking the office Sigurd Eggerz was 39 years old, and Einar Arnórsson was 35 (see. Table 4). Both graduated from the University of Copenhagen with the degree in law and both were former parliamentarians⁴⁵.

Einar Arnórsson came into office on May 4, 1915, and already on 19 June of the same year the second amendment to the constitution of 1874 was passed. Regarding the executive power, the amendment contained a provision stipulating that the number of ministers in Iceland could be changed through a bill passed by the Althingi. Under the amendment, the increased powers of ministers led to reducing the role of the national secretary⁴⁶. The Constitution also stipulated that any law passed by the parliament of Iceland was valid only when signed by the Minister for Iceland and the King⁴⁷. It also highlighted the issue of parliamentary control over the executive authority. In addition, it resulted in establishing the State Tribunal (Icelandic: Landsdómur), which ruled on the constitutional liability

⁴² More on the results of the elections to the Parliament in Iceland in 1911, see also: *Landið 1911*, <http://kosningasaga.wordpress.com/althingiskosningar/kjordaemaskipan-1959/allt-landid/allt-landid-1911/>, [15.07.2014].

⁴³ *Lög um hagstofu Íslands*, 1913, no. 24, 20 October, art. 1 et al., <http://www.althingi.is/lagas/128b/1913024.html>, [15.07.2014]; *Organisation*, <http://www.statice.is/Pages/2451>, [15.07.2014].

⁴⁴ More on the results of the elections to the Parliament in Iceland in 1914, see: *Landið 1914*, <http://kosningasaga.wordpress.com/althingiskosningar/kjordaemaskipan-1959/allt-landid/allt-landid-1914/>, [15.07.2014].

⁴⁵ *Arnórsson Einar*, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen and H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 1, København 1954, p. 60; *Eggerz Sigurður Pjetursson*, [in:] *ibidem*, pp. 348-349.

⁴⁶ *Stjórnarskrá um sjérstaklegu málefni Íslands uppfærð með öllum breytingum til og með 1915*, art. 2, http://www.forsætisraduneyti.is/media/stjornarskra/1915_svo_breytt.pdf, [15.07.2014]; B.T. Melsted, *Island (Forfatning og Forvaltning)*, *op.cit.* p. 563.

⁴⁷ *Stjórnarskrá um sjérstaklegu málefni Íslands uppfærð með öllum breytingum til og með 1915*, *op.cit.*, art. 3.

of people holding the highest offices of state⁴⁸. In practice, the Tribunal had been established already by the Act of 20 October 1905, and it still exists today⁴⁹. However, the Tribunal convened for the first time between 2011-2012 to deal with case against the former Prime Minister of Iceland, Geir Haarde, accused of negligence and thereby contribution to the outbreak of the financial and economic crisis in 2008⁵⁰.

Moreover, the revised Constitution of 1915 introduced a provision, under which the King could not be dethroned nor held liable. However, he had to take an oath on the Constitution of Iceland⁵¹, A provision stating, that the king had the capacity to appoint and dismiss any civil servant was maintained. However, it was indicated, that the entitlement might be amended by law issued by the Althingi. Moreover, the new provision restricted the King's power of transferring officials to other positions⁵². It should be also added that, in November 1915, the Icelandic parliament passed an act, which forbade the officials to organize strikes⁵³.

It should also be noted that transferring the office of the Minister for Iceland to Reykjavík in 1904 resulted in abolishing the office of the governor of Iceland (Icelandic: landshöfðingi) and the office of the Head of District (Icelandic: Amtmaður). There were two people holding the latter office at that time as the island was divided into two districts. In addition, the amendment to the constitution of 1903 established the office of the national secretary (Icelandic: landritarinn, landritaraembættið). In case of death or resignation of the minister for Iceland, the secretary took up the duties of the office until the appointment of a new person. The secretary also substituted for the minister both in the office and in the Parliament in the case of his absence (in Iceland). The main tasks of the national secretary included developing and presenting the Althingi the rules of the future government of Iceland. The secretary also managed the three offices, which took over the duties of the abolished offices of the Heads of Districts. Thus, it was a unique position, the second in importance, after the position of the Minister for Iceland, in the structure of the Icelandic government. The position, therefore served similarly to that of Deputy Minister. The only person to ever hold the office was a lawyer, Clement Jónsson⁵⁴, appointed to that position by Hannes Hafstein in

⁴⁸ *Ibidem* [the second, new, holding no number art.].

⁴⁹ B.T. Melsted, *Island (Forfatning og Forvaltning)*, op.cit. p. 563.

⁵⁰ See: *High Court of Iceland to Rule in Ex-PM Haarde Trial*, <http://icelandreview.com/news/2012/04/17/high-court-iceland-rule-ex-pm-haarde-trial> [15.07.2014]; *Description Based on the Provisions of the Act on a Court of Impeachment No. 3/1963*, <http://www.althingi.is/vefur/minaccount.html>, [15.07.2014]; *Landsdómur*, <http://www.landsdomur.is/>, [15.07.2014]; *Konstytucja Republiki Islandii*, transl. S. Sagan, Rzeszów 2006, art. 14 (p. 40), 29 (p. 43).

⁵¹ *Stjórnarskrá um sjérstaklegu málefni Íslands uppfærð með öllum breytingum til og með 1915*, op.cit., [two first, new, holding no number art.].

⁵² *Ibidem*, art. 4.

⁵³ *Lög um verkfall opinberra starfsmanna*, 1915, no. 33, 3 November, <http://www.althingi.is/lagas/143a/1915033.html>, [15.07.2014].

⁵⁴ *Jonsson Klemens*, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen and H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 2, København 1955, p. 316.

1904⁵⁵. He remained in the office continuously until 1917, when the office of national secretary was abolished.

With the outbreak of the First World War, the number of matters, which were dealt with by the Minister for Iceland increased. Among other things, that situation forced further changes in the central administration of Iceland. But before they occurred, in August and October 1916 new, parliamentary election to the Althingi had been held. It resulted in the victory of the Party of Autonomy⁵⁶. It is also noteworthy, that it was the first time women had been allowed to take an active part in the election. For under the constitutional amendment of 1915, the Icelandic women were guaranteed both active and passive voting rights⁵⁷. On January 2, 1917, the new parliament passed Act no 1 amending the Act no 17 of 3 October 1903 on *Different appointing the highest representative of the executive power of Iceland* (Icelandic: Lög um aðra skipun á čđstu umbođsstjórn Islands), which increased the number of ministers to three. Just two days later three new ministers were appointed.

Jón Magnússon⁵⁸, one of the best lawyers at that time, was appointed the Prime Minister (Icelandic: Forsætisráðherra) and the minister of justice (Icelandic: Dómsmálaráðherra). He is sometimes also referred to as the Minister of Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs (Icelandic: Dóms- og kirkjumálaráðuneytið), the Head of the Ministry of Justice and Education (Justits- og Undervisningsministeriet) or the Minister of Justice, Ecclesiastical Affairs and Education (Icelandic Dóms-, kirkju- og kennslumálaráðherra)⁵⁹. His responsibilities included: civil, criminal and inheritance proceedings, matters connected with the elections, family, healthcare, the Church, education (with the exception of vocational education), libraries and archives as well as the National Museum of Science and Art⁶⁰. Jón Magnússon was a close associate of Hannes Hafstein. Due to Hafstein's poor health, Magnússon took over the leadership of the Party of Autonomy. Before taking the Minister's office, he also served as the secretary to one of the Heads of districts, occupied the positions of a sheriff and judge, was a secretary to the governor, the head of one of the three offices of the Ministry for Iceland, a councillor and chairman of the City Council of Reykjavík, an experienced parliamentarian and an accounting officer in the National Bank (Icelandic:

⁵⁵ Ö. Agnarsdóttur, *Ráðherra og landritari*, <http://www.mbl.is/greinasafn/grein/778405/>, [15.07.2014].

⁵⁶ About the results of the parliamentary election to the Althingi see: *Landið 1916*, <http://kosningasaga.wordpress.com/althingiskosningar/kjordaemaskipan-1959/allt-landid/landid-1916/>, [15.07.2014]; *Elections in Europe. A Data Handbook*, ed. D. Nohlen, P. Stöver, Baden-Baden 2010, pp. 954, 961.

⁵⁷ *Stjórnarskrá um sjérstaklegu málefni Íslands uppfærð með öllum breytingum til og með 1915*, op.cit., art. 17; see also: *Konur á Alþingi*, <http://www.althingi.is/vefur/konur.html>, [15.07.2014].

⁵⁸ *Fyrsta ráðuneyti Jóns Magnússonar*, <http://www.stjornarrad.is/rikisstjornartar-fyrri/nr/118>, [15.07.2014].

⁵⁹ *Ráðuneyti 1917-2014*, <http://www.althingi.is/vefur/ran.html>, [15.07.2014]; Jón Magnússon, <http://www.althingi.is/altext/cv/is/?nfaerslunr=326>, [15.07.2014]; B.T. Melsted, *Island (Historie)*, op.cit., s. 595.

⁶⁰ B.T. Melsted, *Island (Forfatning og Forvaltning)*, op.cit., p. 567.

Landsbanki). He was also a graduate of the University of Copenhagen, where he studied law⁶¹. Thus, it can be concluded without doubt that he had adequate preparation and experience needed to perform the duties of prime minister.

On January 4, 1917, Björn Kristjánsson was appointed the Minister of Finance (Icelandic: Fjármálaráðherra). His supervised matters related to: developing the state budget, bookkeeping related to income, assets and public debt, providing finance for the administration, dealing with taxes and duties, the Statistical Office as well as the registration and measurement of ships⁶². Appointing Björn Kristjánsson the minister was due to the fact that he was one of the leaders of the Independence Party þversum (Icelandic: Sjálfstæðisflokkur þversum), which came second in the parliamentary elections of 1916. He graduated from the University of Copenhagen. His professional career was associated mainly with the financial sector, as he was an accountant, banker and entrepreneur and parliamentarian for many years. It can also be noted that in 1909, as an employee of Landsbanki, together with Tryggvi Gunnarsson, was detained in connection to the famous case during the term of Björn Jónsson, the Minister for Iceland⁶³. After a few months in office, on August 28, 1917, Björn Kristjánsson was dismissed from the post of finance minister. The new head of the Ministry of Finance became Sigurður Eggerz, the former Minister for Iceland and one of the leaders of the Independence Party þversum.

The third minister nominated on January 4, 1917 was Sigurður Jónsson, who was appointed the Minister of Labour (Icelandic: Atvinnumálaráðherra). The position is also sometimes referred to as the head of the Ministry of Food and Transport (Icelandic: Nærings- og Samfærðselsministeriet). The Ministry dealt with the matters related to: arable lands, agricultural, veterinary as well as vocational schools, fisheries, trade, food supply, banks, savings banks, insurance system (except health insurance) industry, supervision of public land, social welfare, road network and municipal services, postal, telegraph and telephone services⁶⁴. It was the Ministry of quite a large scope of responsibilities, mainly related to the economic and social policy as well as the development of infrastructure. Sigurður Jónsson was the oldest of Icelandic ministers appointed in 1917. On taking the office he was 65 years old. Previously, he was a farmer, who completed his education in his spare time. He was one of the main initiators of the cooperative movement in Iceland, including the Icelandic Association of Cooperatives (Icelandic: Sambandam Íslenskra Samvinnufélaga), which was founded in 1902 and has been operating almost continuously up till now⁶⁵. In the

⁶¹ B.T. Melsted, *Magnússon Jón*, [in:] *Salmonsens konversationsleksikon*, ed. Ch. Blangstrup, vol. 16, København 1924, p. 416; *Magnússon Jón*, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen i H. Hjørth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 3, København 1957, p. 128.

⁶² B.T. Melsted, *Island (Forfatning og Forvaltning)*, op.cit., p. 567.

⁶³ *Björn Kristjánsson*, <http://www.althingi.is/altext/cv/is/?nfaerslunr=85>, [15.07.2014].

⁶⁴ B.T. Melsted, *Island (Forfatning og Forvaltning)*, op.cit., p. 567.

⁶⁵ Í. Jónsson, *Íslensk samvinnuhreyfing á tímamótum*, http://www.bifrost.is/files/skra_0009897.pdf, [15.07.2014], pp. 6, 25 et al.; the original name of the Association was Sambandskaupfélag Þingeyinga; in 1906 it was changed into Samband Íslenskra Samvinnufélaga, the association

parliamentary elections in 1916 he represented the Independent Farmers (Icelandic: Óháðra Bænda)⁶⁶. However, the party on December 16 of the same year merged with the Party of Farmers (Icelandic: Bændaflokkur) and formed the existing today Party of Development (Icelandic: Framsóknarflokkurinn)⁶⁷. One of the main initiators of the Party of Development was Sigurður Jónsson⁶⁸ himself. Hence, on taking the minister's office he already represented the newly formed party.

To sum up, from 4 January 1917 the central administration in Iceland was headed by a Danish king and three ministers. Each minister managed the departments subordinate to him and was accountable to the Althingi for his actions. Each minister appointed an executive assistant, who took decisions and actions in cases of minor importance. In other cases, decisions were taken by the minister, or the matter was submitted to the king by proxy of the minister's secretary. It should also be noted that with increasing number of Ministers the position of national secretary was abolished. However, the institute of Statistics Iceland, which was headed by a director, remained and is still in operation. All these bodies appointed assistants and secretaries to carry out their tasks⁶⁹.

It is also noteworthy, that the government formed in 1917 was composed of three ministers representing the three major parties in the Althingi. This was therefore, the first case in the history of Iceland of creating a formal coalition government. Although that coalition was formed by three largest parties in the Icelandic parliament, originating from completely different political environments, it seems that the cabinet may be called the government of national unity. This kind of governments are usually formed at crucial and important moments in the country's history, regardless of political differences between the individual members of the coalition. Such a formula is to emphasize that the decisions taken by such a government have the support of the vast majority of the population. It is therefore important, that Iceland managed to form such a coalition government in the period of negotiations over the legal status of Iceland with the Danish authorities.

From the formal point of view, all three Icelandic ministers were part of the Danish government until 30 November 1918⁷⁰. That situation changed following the enactment of the Act of Union between Iceland and Denmark on December 1,

suspended its activity in 1992 and in 2013 it was resurrected, see: *Til fjölmiðla vegna afhendingar skjalasafns Sambands íslenskra samvinnufélaga til Þjóðskjalasafns Íslands 19. október 2012*, http://skjalasafn.is/sites/default/files/media-files/2012-10-19_afhending_skjala_sis.pdf, [15.07.2014]; *Samband íslenskra samvinnufélaga Þrír yfirmenn með árs uppsagnarfrest*, <http://www.mbl.is/greinasafn/grein/95575/>, [15.07.2014]; J.A. Bergsvein, *SÍS er alveg þrælsprækt!*, <http://www.vb.is/frettir/98202/>, [15.07.2014]; H. Guðmundsson, *Vilja fjölga verkefnum Sambandsins*, <http://www.visir.is/vilja-fjolga-verkefnum-sambandsins/article/2013131209640>, [15.07.2014].

⁶⁶ Landið 1916, op.cit.; Sigurður Jónsson (í Ystafelli), <http://www.althingi.is/altxt/cv/is/?nfaerslunr=515>, [15.07.2014].

⁶⁷ L.I. Leósson, *Erfiðleikar Framsóknar í þettbýli. Hvers vegna gengur Framsóknarflokknum illa að afla sér fylgis í þettbýli?*, Háskólinn á Bifröst 2011, p. 10 and f.

⁶⁸ *Framsóknarflokkurinn 50 ára í dag*, „Morgunblaðið“, 16 grúndía 1966, p. 2; *Framsóknarflokkurinn átti í gær hálfra aldar afmæli*, „Dagur“, 17 December 1966, p. 1.

⁶⁹ B.T. Melsted, *Island (Forfatning og Forvaltning)*, op.cit., p. 567.

⁷⁰ *Regeringen Zahle II*, http://www.stm.dk/p_5467.html, [15.07.2014].

1918, whereupon Iceland and Denmark became two separate states with the same monarch. From that moment the Icelandic ministers were no longer the members of the Danish government, but they constituted a separate and independent authority of the central government in Iceland. The Act of Union stipulated that Denmark should be entrusted with the conduct of the foreign affairs of Iceland. Iceland established its national symbols, and introduced its own money in the form of the Icelandic krona⁷¹. It can also be noted, that the Union Act was approved in a national referendum on 19 October 1918⁷².

In the summer of 1919, the Prime minister of Iceland, Jón Magnússon, presented a draft of a new constitution of Iceland, which was adopted by the Althingi, following some changes. Then the Icelandic parliament self-dissolved. In the elections to the Althingi, which took place on 19 October 1919, the Party of Autonomy won again⁷³. The new parliament approved the new constitution. On 18 May 1920, it was signed by the King of Denmark, and came into force on January 1, 1921⁷⁴. In the meantime, after the draft constitution had been proposed, all three ministers resigned in August 1919⁷⁵. However, all remained in office for another half year, and carried out their duties. It was not until February 25, 1920, that new ministers were appointed. Again, the prime minister and the minister of justice and ecclesiastical affairs was Jón Magnússon. However, as for the other ministries, Magnús Guðmundsson was appointed the Minister of Finance and Pétur Jónsson was appointed the Minister of Labour. After the latter's death on 20 January 1922, his duties were taken over by Magnús Guðmundsson, who held the office of the Finance Minister and the Minister of Labour for almost three months, until the appointment of new ministers. Unlike the previous government, the new government was created only by the Party of Autonomy. Two ministers, Jón Magnússon and Pétur Jónsson, belonged to this party, whereas Magnús Guðmundsson was not its member, but maintained cooperation with it⁷⁶. Although

⁷¹ B. Thorlacius, *Ágrip af sögu frans*, http://www.forsaetisraduneyti.is/upplýsingar/faninn/Saga_fana/nr/1653, [20.07.2014]; G. Szelagowska, *Dania*, *op.cit.*, p. 129.

⁷² That was the third referendum in the history of Iceland; about its results, see: *1918 Sambandslögin*, <http://kosningasaga.wordpress.com/thjodaratkvaedagreidskur/thjodaratkvaedi-um-setningu-sambandslaganna-1918/>, [15.07.2014]; the Danish-Icelandic Act of Union was enacted through *Federal Act* (Danish: *Forbundslov*) on 30 November 1918, passed both by the then Danish and Icelandic parliament; the Act came into force on 1 December of the same year after it had been signed by the King, a day earlier, see: B. T. Melsted, *Island (Forfatning og Forvaltning)*, *op.cit.* pp. 563-564; *idem*, *Island (Historie)*, *op.cit.*, p. 595.

⁷³ *Landið 1919*, <http://kosningasaga.wordpress.com/althingiskosningar/kjordaemaskipan-1959/allt-landid/landid-1919/>, [20.07.2014].

⁷⁴ T. Melsted, *Island (Forfatning og Forvaltning)*, *op.cit.* s. 564; the copy of the constitution of Iceland of 18 May 1920 see in: *Stjórnarskrá konungsríkisins Íslands*, 1920, no. 9, 18 May, http://www.forsaetisraduneyti.is/media/stjornarskra/1920_stjornarskra.pdf, [20.07.2014].

⁷⁵ *Ráðuneyti 1917-2014*, *op.cit.*; B. T. Melsted, *Island (Historie)*, *op.cit.*, p. 595.

⁷⁶ *Landið 1919*, *op.cit.*; after the Party of Autonomy had been dissolved in 1923, he joined the newly formed Party of Citizens (Icelandic: Borgaraflokkurinn), from 1924 was a member of the Conservative Party (Icelandic: Íhaldsflokkurinn), and from 1929, a member and one of the founders of a new, existing up till now Independence Party (Icelandic: Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn).

the Party of Autonomy was the strongest party in the Althingi, it did not have a parliamentary majority. Therefore, it was a minority cabinet.

Magnús Guðmundsson was educated in law, and completed his studies at the University of Copenhagen. Before taking the minister's office, he worked as an assistant in minister's office and served the function of a sheriff. He was also associated with savings banks (Icelandic: sparnaðarbandalagi) and National Bank (Icelandic: Landsbanki)⁷⁷, whereas Pétur Jónsson was primarily a farmer and a teacher for a short time. Besides, he was one of the main initiators of the cooperative movement in Iceland. He was also the first president of the Icelandic Association of Cooperatives⁷⁸.

On March 7, 1922, three new ministers were appointed⁷⁹. It was the first government formed after the new constitution had come into force. Sigurður Eggerz, who earlier had held some of the highest position in the Icelandic administration, was appointed the Prime Minister.

To sum up, a number of key issues should be considered. The extension of the central administration in Iceland was associated with the aspirations of Icelanders to gain first, greater autonomy, and finally sovereignty. This was a bloodless struggle carried on through constant negotiations with the Danish authorities and using pressure from both the political elites of Iceland, as well as the majority of the population of Iceland. These transformations occurred over a long time span, but the actions were carried out consistently by successive generations of Icelanders. Appointing a separate Minister for Iceland in the Danish government in the seventies of the nineteenth century, initially had only symbolic character. However, transferring the seat of the Ministry for Iceland to Reykjavík in 1904, and putting it under the management of the Icelanders themselves was of great importance and constituted a strong basis for further development of more and more independent central administration in Iceland. The next important step was increasing the number of ministries to three in 1917. From the end of following year, they played the role of the government of a sovereign state under the Act of the Danish-Icelandic union. The next step was consolidating the previously acquired rights through the adoption of the new constitution of 1920.

Also, the great competence displayed by the persons occupying the highest positions in the central administration of Iceland should be pointed out. Each Minister for Iceland, and all the Prime ministers and at the same time ministers of justice, who held their office in the discussed period, were educated in law and already had considerable, clerical experience. Each Finance Minister and the Minister of Labour had a wide, relevant professional experience. It should be noted, however, that the vast majority of ministers studied at the University of

⁷⁷ Magnús Guðmundsson, <http://www.althingi.is/altext/cv/is/?nfaerslunr=415>, [15.07.2014]; Guðmundsson Magnús, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen i H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 2, København 1955, p. 58.

⁷⁸ Pétur Jónsson, <http://www.althingi.is/altext/cv/is/?nfaerslunr=481>, [20.07.2014].

⁷⁹ *Ráðuneyti 1917-2014*, op.cit.

Copenhagen. On the one hand, they were provided with excellent education, especially that there were no universities offering education at such a high level in Iceland at that time. Besides, this fact enabled them to explore the mechanisms of administration and the entire political system of Denmark. Some of the future ministers for Iceland obtained their clerical experience working in Danish ministries. That experience and contacts built up then were probably helpful during the negotiations with the authorities of Denmark and influence the direction of development administration in Iceland. However, the long stay in the Danish capital could also, in some cases, result in more or less cultural and national assimilation with Denmark.

Bibliography

1. *1918 Sambandslögin*, <http://kosningasaga.wordpress.com/thjodaratkvaedagreidslur/thjodaratkvaedi-um-setningu-sambandslaganna-1918/>, [15.07.2014].
2. *About the Independence Party*, http://www.eldhorn.is/bet/xd_english.htm, [15.07.2014].
3. *Aðdragandi heimastjórnar og heimastjórnarárin*, <http://www.heimastjorn.is/myndbond/fyrirlestrar/index.html>, [15.07.2014].
4. *Agrip af byggingarsögu Stjórnarráðshússins*, <http://www.forsaetisraduneyti.is/raduneyti/stjornaradshusid/nr/345>, [15.07.2014].
5. *Alþingi*, [in:] G. Hálfðanarson, *Historical Dictionary of Iceland*, Lanham 2008.
6. *Amtmaður* [in:] G. Hálfðanarson, *Historical Dictionary of Iceland*, Lanham 2008.
7. *Arnarson Ingólfur*, [in:] G. Hálfðanarson, *Historical Dictionary of Iceland*, Lanham 2008.
8. *Arnorsson Einar*, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen i H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 1, København 1954.
9. Baker P.S., *The Danish Laws of Standing in 1871*, <http://www.humanities360.com/index.php/the-danish-laws-of-standing-in-1871-21130/>, [15.07.2014].
10. Bergsvein J.A., *SÍS er alveg þrælsprækt!*, <http://www.vb.is/frettir/98202/>, [15.07.2014].
11. Bernharðsson E. Þ., *Alþingismenn og úrslit þingkosninga á landshöfðingjatímanum. Kosningahandbók fyrir árin 1874-1904*, <https://notendur.hi.is/~eggthor/kosning.html>, [15.07.2014].
12. Bernharðsson E. Þ., *Háskólaborgin Reykjavík*, <https://notendur.hi.is/~eggthor/haskolaborginAdal.htm>, [15.07.2014].
13. Bille C.S.A., *Klein Christian Sophus*, [in:] *Dansk biografisk lexikon*, ed. C.F. Brick, vol. 9, Kjöbenhavn 1895.
14. Bjarnason S., *Hilmar Finsen landshöfðingi*, „Óðinn”, 1924, ann. 20, no. 1-6.
15. *Björn Jónsson*, <http://www.althingi.is/altext/cv/is/?nfaerslunr=83>, [15.07.2014].
16. *Björn Kristjánsson*, <http://www.althingi.is/altext/cv/is/?nfaerslunr=85>, [15.07.2014].
17. *Björnsson Sveinn*, [w:] G. Hálfðanarson, *Historical Dictionary of Iceland*, Lanham 2008.
18. Cieślak T., *Zarys historii najnowszej krajów skandynawskich*, Warszawa 1978.
19. Clark A. H., *Iceland and Greenland*, Washington 1943.
20. *Constitution of 1874*, [in:] G. Hálfðanarson, *Historical Dictionary of Iceland*, Lanham 2008.
21. Czapliński W., *Dzieje Danii nowożytnej (1500-1975)*, Warszawa 1982.
22. Czapliński W., Górski K., *Historia Danii*, Wrocław 1965.

23. Dahl F., *Goos August Herman Ferdinand Carl*, [in:] *Dansk biografisk leksikon*, ed. P. Engelstofa, vol. 8, København 1935.
24. *Description based on the provisions of the Act on a Court of Impeachment No. 3/1963*, <http://www.althingi.is/vefur/minaccount.html>, [15.07.2014].
25. Eggerz Sigurður Pjetursson, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen and H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 1, København 1954.
26. *Elections in Europe. A Data Handbook*, eds. D. Nohlen, P. Stöver, Baden-Baden 2010.
27. Finsen Hilmar [in:] A. Falk-Jensen and H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, t. 1, København 1954.
28. Foote P.G., Wilson D.M., *Wikingowie*, Warszawa 1975.
29. *Former Prime Ministers*, http://eng.forsaetisraduneyti.is/minister/Former_Ministers/, [15.07.2014].
30. *Framsóknarflokkurinn 50 ára í dag*, „Morgunblaðið”, 16 December 1966.
31. *Framsóknarflokkurinn átti í gær hálfra aldar afmæli*, „Dagur”, 17 December 1966.
32. Friðrikssonar G., *Erindi Guðjóns Friðrikssonar um Hannes Hafstein*, <http://www.heimastjorn.is/myndbond/nr/114.html>, [15.07.2014].
33. Friis M. P., *Nellemann Johannes Magnus Valdemar*, [in:] *Dansk biografisk leksikon*, ed. C. F. Brick, vol. 12, København 1898.
34. Friis M. P., *Rump Nicolai Reimer*, [in:] *Dansk biografisk leksikon*, ed. C.F. Brick, vol. 14, København 1900.
35. *Fyrsta ráðuneyti Jóns Magnússonar*, <http://www.stjornarrad.is/rikisstjornartalfyrira/nr/118>, [15.07.2014].
36. Gigilewicz E., *Kościół protestanckie*, [in:] *Encyklopedia katolicka*, vol. 7, ed. S. Wielgus, J. Duchniewski, M. Daniluk [et al.], Lublin 1997.
37. *Goos August Herman Ferdinand Carl*, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen i H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 2, København 1955.
38. Grzybowski M., Pulit A., *Althing – parlament Islandii*, Warszawa 2007.
39. Guðmundsson H., *Vilja fjölga verkefnum Sambandsins*, <http://www.visir.is/vilja-fjolga-verkefnum-sambandsins/article/2013131209640>, [15.07.2014].
40. *Guðmundsson Magnús*, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen i H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, t. 2, København 1955.
41. *Gunnarsson Tryggvi*, [in:] *Krak's Blaa bog: tre tusinde nulevende danske mænd og kvinders levnedsløb indtil aar 1910*, København 1910.
42. Halldórsdóttir E.H., *Hannes Hafstein og kvenfrelsið*, <http://www.heimastjorn.is/fyrstiradherrann/kvenrettindin/index.html>, [15.07.2014].
43. Halldórsdóttir E.H., *Kvenréttindi*, <http://www.heimastjorn.is/heimastjornartiminn/kvenrettindi/index.html>, [15.07.2014].
44. *Hannes Hafstein – Tripod*, <http://genealogy14.tripod.com/HannesHafstein.html>, [15.07.2014].
45. *Hannes Hafstein (Hannes Þórður)*, <http://www.althingi.is/alttext/cv/is/?nfaerslunr=232>, [15.07.2014].
46. Helgason J., *Guðmundsson Valtýr*, [w:] *Dansk biografisk leksikon*, ed. P. Engelstof, vol. 8, København 1935.

47. *High Court of Iceland to Rule in Ex-PM Haarde Trial*, <http://icelandreview.com/news/2012/04/17/high-court-iceland-rule-ex-pm-haarde-trial/>, [15.07.2014].
48. *History*, <http://english.hi.is/history>, [15.07.2014].
49. *Home Rule*, [in:] G. Hálfðanarson, *The A to Z of Iceland*, Lanham 2010.
50. Hugo Egmont Hørring, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen and H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 2, København 1955.
51. Ingvarsson U., *Frjálslyndisstefnan á landshöfðingjatímabilinu 1874 til 1904*, Reykjavík 1994.
52. *Íslandsbanki is back!*, <http://www.islandsbanki.is/english/about-islandsbanki/news/news-item/?NewsID=65807bd9-1b2d-4972-846d-cb1d7203bbaf>, [15.07.2014].
53. Jóhannsson E.F., *Upp með þúsund radda brag*, <http://www.mbl.is/greinasafn/grein/778394/>, [15.07.2014].
54. Jón Magnússon, <http://www.althingi.is/altext/cv/is/?nfaerslunr=326>, [15.07.2014].
55. Jon Sigurdsson (Jón Sigurðsson) – wielki patriota islandzki, „Islandia”, no. 3, 1996, <http://www.islandia.org.pl/sigurdss.html> [15.07.2014].
56. Jón Sigurðsson og stjórnarskráin, <http://www.heimastjorn.is/leidin-til-sjalfstaedis/Jon-Sigurdsen/index.html>, [15.07.2014].
57. Jónsson Í., *Íslensk samvinnuhreyfing á tímamótum*, http://www.bifrost.is/files/skra_0009897.pdf, [15.07.2014].
58. Jonsson Klemens, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen i H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 2, København 1955.
59. Jonsson Kristján, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen i H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 2, København 1955.
60. Kaalund K., *Stephensen Magnús*, [in:] *Dansk biografisk lexikon*, ed.. C.F. Brick, vol. 16, Kjøbenhavn 1902.
61. Kaalund K., *Thorberg Bergur*, [in:] *Dansk biografisk lexikon*, ed. C.F. Brick, vol. 17, Kjøbenhavn 1903.
62. Kjartansson H. S., *Menntun*, <http://www.heimastjorn.is/heimastjornartiminn/menntun/index.html>, [15.07.2014].
63. *Kjörnir konungsfulltrúar*, <http://www.althingi.is/vefur/konfu.html>, [15.07.2014].
64. Klein Christian Sophus, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen and H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 2, København 1955.
65. *Konstytucja Republiki Islandii*, trans. S. Sagan, Rzeszów 2006.
66. *Konur á Alþingi*, <http://www.althingi.is/vefur/konur.html>, [15.07.2014].
67. Kristinssyni G. H., *Ágrip af þróun stjórnarskrárinnar*, [Reykjavík] 2005.
68. Kristján Jónsson, <http://www.althingi.is/altext/cv/is/?nfaerslunr=393>, [15.07.2014].
69. Kumor B., *Kościół katolicki*, [in:] *Encyklopedia katolicka*, vol. 7, ed. S. Wielgus, J. Duchniewski, M. Daniluk [et al.], Lublin 1997.
70. *Landið 1911*, <http://kosningasaga.wordpress.com/althingiskosningar/kjordaemaskipan-1959/allt-landid/allt-landid-1911/>, [15.07.2014].
71. *Landið 1914*, <http://kosningasaga.wordpress.com/althingiskosningar/kjordaemaskipan-1959/allt-landid/allt-landid-1914/>, [15.07.2014].
72. *Landið 1916*, <http://kosningasaga.wordpress.com/althingiskosningar/kjordaemaskipan-1959/allt-landid/landid-1916/>, [15.07.2014].

73. *Landið 1919*, <http://kosningasaga.wordpress.com/althingiskosningar/kjordaemaskipan-1959/allt-landid/landid-1919/>, [20.07.2014].
74. *Landsdómur*, <http://www.landsdomur.is/>, [15.07.2014].
75. *Landsyfirrættardómar og hestarættardómar í íslenskum málum*, vol. 2, ed. K. Ó. Þorgrímssonar, Reykjavík 1890.
76. Leósson L.I., *Erfiðleikar Framsóknar í þéttbýli. Hvers vegna gengur Framsóknarflokknum illa að afla sér fylgis í þéttbýli?*, Háskólinn á Bifröst 2011.
77. *Lög um hagstofu Íslands*, 1913, no. 24, 20 October <http://www.althingi.is/lagas/128b/1913024.html>, [15.07.2014].
78. *Lög um rétt kvenna til embættisnáms, námsstyrks og embættis*, 1911, no. 37, 11 July, <http://www.althingi.is/lagas/139b/1911037.html>, [15.07.2014].
79. *Lög um verkfall opinberra starfsmanna*, 1915, no. 33, 3 November, <http://www.althingi.is/lagas/143a/1915033.html>, [15.07.2014].
80. *Lov om den islandske ministers ansvarlighed. (af 4. marts 1904)*, [in:] *Betænkning om ministrenes ansvar for regeringens førelse samt om, hvorvidt en særlig ministeransvarlighedslov bør gennemføres*, København 1962.
81. *Lov om Islands forfatningsmæssige stilling i riget af 2den Januar 1871*, <http://thomasthorsesen.dk/pol/1871-constitutional-status-iceland.php>, [15.07.2014].
82. Magnús Guðmundsson, <http://www.althingi.is/alttext/cv/is/?nfaerslun=415>, [15.07.2014].
83. Magnússon G., *Atvinnulíf á heimastjórnartímabilinu*, <http://www.heimastjorn.is/heimastjornartiminn/atvinnulif/>, [15.07.2014].
84. Magnússon Jón, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen i H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 3, København 1957.
85. Magnússon S. G., *Wasteland with Words. A Social History of Iceland*, London 2010.
86. Marciniakówna A., *Republika Islandii*, Warszawa 1978.
87. McHale V.E., *Political Parties of Europe*, [s.l.] 1983.
88. Melsted B.T., *Finsen Søren Hilmar Steindór*, [in:] *Salmonsens konversationsleksikon*, ed. Ch. Blangstrup, vol. 8, København 1919.
89. Melsted B.T., *Halldórsson Ólafur*, [in:] *Salmonsens konversationsleksikon*, ed. Ch. Blangstrup, vol. 10, København 1920.
90. Melsted B.T., *Island (Forfatning og Forvaltning)*, [in:] *Salmonsens konversationsleksikon*, ed. Ch. Blangstrup, vol. 12, København 1922.
91. Melsted B.T., *Island (Historie)*, [in:] *Salmonsens konversationsleksikon*, ed. Ch. Blangstrup, vol. 12, København 1922.
92. Melsted B.T., *Jónsson Björn*, [in:] *Salmonsens konversationsleksikon*, ed. Ch. Blangstrup, vol. 13, København 1922.
93. Melsted B.T., *Magnússon Jón*, [in:] *Salmonsens konversationsleksikon*, ed. Ch. Blangstrup, vol. 16, København 1924.
94. Melsted B.T., *Stephensen Magnús*, [in:] *Salmonsens konversationsleksikon*, ed. Ch. Blangstrup, vol. 22, København 1927.
95. *Ministeriet for Island*, http://www.denstoredanske.dk/Samfund_jura_og_politik/Samfund/Ministerier_styrelser_udvalg_og_råd/Ministeriet_for_Island, [15.07.2014].
96. Młyńska E., *Islandzkie szkolnictwo wyższe*, <http://www.wsp.krakow.pl/konspekt/konspekt7/mlynska7.html>, [15.07.2014].
97. *Nellemann Johannes Magnus Valdemar*, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen and H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 3, København 1957.

98. *Nidur med landshöfðingjanim. Ólga í reykjavík fyrir 80 árum*, „Lesbók Morgunblaðsins”, 1953, ann. 28, no. 26.
99. Ö. Agnarsdóttur, *Ráðherra og landritari*, <http://www.mbl.is/greinasafn/grein/778405/>, [15.07.2014].
100. *Organisation*, <http://www.statice.is/Pages/2451>, [15.07.2014].
101. Pająk J. Z., *Chrystian IX*, [in:] J. Z. Pająk, A. Penkalla, J. Szczepański, *Słownik biograficzny XIX wieku*, Toruń 2005.
102. *Peter Adler Alberti*, [in:] H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Danske sagførere under loven af 26 maj 1868*, København 1941.
103. *Pétur Jónsson*, <http://www.althingi.is/altext/cv/is/?nfaerslunr=481>, [20.07.2014].
104. *Ráðherrar Íslands 1904-1917*, <http://www.althingi.is/vefur/rahis.html>, [15.07.2014].
105. *Ráðherrar Íslands störfuðu frá 1. febrúar 1904 - 4. janúar 1917*, <http://www.stjornarrad.is/rikisstjornartaf-fyrir/nr/119>, [15.07.2014].
106. *Ráðuneyti 1917-2014*, <http://www.althingi.is/vefur/ran.html>, [15.07.2014].
107. *Regeringen Deuntzer*, http://www.stm.dk/p_5461.html, [15.07.2014].
108. *Regeringen Zahle II*, http://www.stm.dk/p_5467.html, [15.07.2014].
109. *Regeringer fra 1848 – 1901*, http://www.stm.dk/p_8175.html, [15.07.2014].
110. *Regeringer fra 1901 – 1953*, http://www.stm.dk/p_8174.html, [15.07.2014].
111. *Rump Nicolai Reimer*, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen and H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 3, København 1957.
112. *Saga flokksins*, <http://wayback.vefsafn.is/wayback/20080714234002/http://www.framsokn.is/Flokkurinn/Sagan-Itimansras>, [15.07.2014].
113. *Sagan – Í tímans rás*, <http://www.framsokn.is/sagan-i-timans-ras/>, [15.07.2014].
114. *Sagan S., Ustrój polityczny Republiki Islandii*, Rzeszów 2005.
115. *Samband íslenskra samvinnufélaga Þeir yfirmenn með árs uppsagnarfrest*, <http://www.mbl.is/greinasafn/grein/95575/> [15.07.2014].
116. *Sigurður Jónsson (í Ystafelli)*, <http://www.althingi.is/altext/cv/is/?nfaerslunr=515>, [15.07.2014].
117. *Stephensen Magnus*, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen and H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 4, København 1958.
118. *Stjórnarskrá konungsríkisins Íslands*, 1920, no. 9, 18 May, http://www.forsaetisraduneyti.is/media/stjornarskra/1920_stjornarskra.pdf, [20.07.2014].
119. *Stjórnarskrá um hin sjerstavlegu málefni Íslands uppfærð með breytingum frá 1903*, http://www.forsaetisraduneyti.is/media/stjornarskra/1903_svo_breytt.pdf, [15.07.2014].
120. *Stjórnarskrá um hin sjerstavlegu málefni Íslands*, 1874, no. 1, 5 January, http://www.forsaetisraduneyti.is/media/stjornarskra/1874_stjornarskra.pdf, [15.07.2014].
121. *Stjórnarskrá um sjerstavlegu málefni Íslands uppfærð með öllum breytingum til og með 1915*, http://www.forsaetisraduneyti.is/media/stjornarskra/1915_svo_breytt.pdf, [15.07.2014].
122. *Sveinn Björnsson fyrsti innlendur þjóðhöfðingi Íslendinga. Æviferill og lífsstarf*, „Morgunblaðið”, 26 January 1952.
123. *Sveinn Björnsson*, <http://www.forseti.is/Fyrirforsetar/SveinnBjornsson/>, [15.07.2014].
124. *Sveinsson H., Æfiágrip Hilmar Finsen landshöfðingja*, „Andvari”, 1895, ann. 20.
125. *Szelągowska G., Dania*, Warszawa 2010.
126. *Taylor B., Egypt and Iceland*, New York 1879.

127. Thorberg Bergur Ólafsson, [in:] A. Falk-Jensen and H. Hjorth-Nielsen, *Candidati og examinati juris 1736-1936. Candidati politices 1852-1936. Candidati actuarii 1922-1936*, vol. 4, København 1958.
128. Thorlacius B., *Ágrip af sögu frans*, http://www.forsaetisraduneyti.is/upplýsingar/faninn/Saga_fana/nr/1653, [20.07.2014].
129. *Til fjölmiðla vegna afhendingar skjalasafns Sambands íslenskra samvinnufélaga til Þjóðskjalasafns Íslands 19. október 2012*, http://skjalasafn.is/sites/default/files/media-files/2012-10-19_afhending_skjala_sis.pdf, [15.07.2014].

Abstract

The extension of the central administration in Iceland was associated with the aspirations of Icelanders to gain first, greater autonomy, and finally sovereignty. This was a bloodless struggle carried on through constant negotiations with the Danish authorities and using pressure from both the political elites of Iceland, as well as the majority of the population of Iceland. These transformations occurred over a long time span, but the actions were carried out consistently by successive generations of Icelanders. Appointing a separate Minister for Iceland in the Danish government in the seventies of the nineteenth century, initially had only symbolic character. However, transferring the seat of the Ministry for Iceland to Reykjavík in 1904, and putting it under the management of the Icelanders themselves, was of great importance and constituted a strong basis for further development of more and more independent central administration in Iceland. The next important step was increasing the number of ministries to three in 1917. From the end of following year, they played the role of a government of a sovereign state under the Act of the Danish-Icelandic union. The next step was consolidating the previously acquired rights through the adoption of the new constitution of 1920.

Rozwój administracji centralnej na Islandii w dobie pierwszej konstytucji islandzkiej. Gubernatorzy i pierwsi ministrowie islandzcy

Na Islandii rozbudowa administracji centralnej wiązała się a z aspiracjami Islandczyków do uzyskania najpierw coraz większej autonomii, a w końcu suwerenności. Przemiany rozciągane były w czasie, ale działania były prowadzone konsekwentnie przez kolejne pokolenia Islandczyków. Powołanie w latach siedemdziesiątych XIX w. osobnego ministra do spraw Islandii w rządzie duńskim początkowo miało tylko charakter symboliczny. Jednak przeniesienie siedziby Ministerstwa Islandii do Reykjavíku w 1904 r. i oddanie go pod kierownictwo samych Islandczyków miało już duże znaczenie i stanowiło silną podstawę pod dalszą rozbudowę coraz bardziej niezależnej od Duńczyków administracji centralnej na Islandii. Następnym ważnym etapem było powiększenie liczby ministerstw islandzkich w 1917 r. do trzech. Już od końca następnego roku pełniły one rolę rządu suwerennego państwa islandzkiego

w ramach zawartej wówczas unii duńsko-islandzkiej. Kolejnym krokiem było utrwalenie zdobytych dotychczas praw poprzez ustanowienie nowej konstytucji z 1920 r.

Radosław Kubicki, Ph.D., the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, Poland.