

Militia and Defence, which, during a brief term of office, he did not a little to invigorate. The end of the year saw him back in the Post Office Department, which he again left in the month of May of the year following (1881), to assume the portfolio of Justice. Meantime (24th May, 1879) he had been created by Her Majesty a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, an honour which his eminent public services had very fully merited. Sir Alexander remained at the head of the Department of Justice until the latter part of the year 1885, when he once more returned to the Post Office Department, which he finally left last spring to accept the Lieutenant-Governorship of Ontario. His appointment to the latter office was viewed with pleasure and approval, even by his political opponents. On all hands it was felt that in Sir Alexander Campbell Her Majesty would have one of the most constitutional of representatives, such a man as she probably would herself have delighted to choose for the position. Before proceeding to Toronto, however, Sir Alexander went to England at the request of the Government, to represent Canada at the Colonial Conference. That conference was not empowered to enact any measures, or even to concert any scheme, for the modification of the relations existing between Great Britain and the Colonies; but it gave an opportunity for a confidential exchange of views between members of the English Government and leading representatives of the Colonies; and there is little doubt that it has smoothed the way for the future discussion of questions of the greatest moment.

As a Departmental chief, Sir Alexander Campbell was deservedly popular. He was not, perhaps, the most accessible of men, and his general manner may have been a trifle distant and brief; but it was soon discovered that he had a kind heart and a strong sense of justice. He was not a man to be trifled with; he believed in holding men to their duty; but, on the other hand, he was always glad of an opportunity of rewarding faithful service. He had a keen insight into character, and had, consequently, little difficulty in dealing with men on their merits. His confidence was seldom given where it was not deserved, or withheld where it was deserved. He was always ready to form his own independent opinion on any matter properly submitted