

ferred from the state of affairs existing in our own House of Commons during the present session. Had the Cabinet not been in sympathy with the party in power, what confusion there would have been in the views of the Cabinet ministers with regard to the naval question.

The third step, that of political homogeneity of the cabinet, which consists in choosing its members from the predominating party, is one of the most vital, because upon it depends the strength of the cabinet ministers. The King appoints only such ministers as have the confidence of the House of Commons and he does it in the following manner; he summons the leader of the party that has the majority in the House of Commons and requests him to form a Cabinet. After due consultation with the most prominent men of his party, the Prime Minister gives the sovereign a list of men whom he recommends as capable of filling the different offices. These men, who are recognized for business ability and administrative capacity, are appointed and commissioned by the sovereign.

Cabinet responsibility which succeeded ministerial responsibility was slow in evolution although Robert Walpole, the first Prime Minister, and who is considered the father of the cabinet system, favored it very strongly. On it the cabinet as a whole is dependent for its existence; consequently if any one of its members acts in a manner not in accordance with his duties as a minister the life of that Cabinet is endangered. It is also a custom that if the cabinet is defeated on any important measure in the House of Commons, or if a vote of censure is passed on it in that house, the ministers must resign and a new Cabinet is formed in accordance with the views of the new majority. If a defeated or censured Cabinet thinks that the adverse vote does not bespeak the opinion of the country at large, it advises the sovereign to that effect: he dissolves the house and declares a new election in order. The fate of the Cabinet depends on the outcome.

The solidarity of the Cabinet depends largely upon the fifth and last of the essential principles, on which the institution rests—the ascendancy of the Prime Minister. He is to the Cabinet what the keystone is to the arch, in a word he is the pivot upon which the whole mechanism of the Cabinet depends. It is interesting to note however, that this man upon whom rests such grave responsibility, and who is the political ruler of England has no recognized position in the table of social precedence and it is doubtful if there