



The
**CANADIAN
 COURIER**
The National Weekly



Vol. XII.

August 17, 1912

No. 12

The Role of Governor-General

FEW people are covering more ground or passing more eventful days this summer than the vice-regal party from Rideau Hall. Within a month His Royal Highness has travelled at least three thousand miles. He has visited many Canadian towns, talked with dozens of leading citizens and received the huzzas of the loyal multitude. A few weeks ago, the Duke and Princess Patricia were at the middle of Canada. Winnipeg welcomed them in forty tongues. The Russian Jew who had fled the Cossack whip of the Czar, the green-capped Englishman who had steered it to the Land of Promise, the adopted United Stateser, who avowed himself a Democrat—were one in their tribute to the representatives of the Imperial Sovereign. From Winnipeg vice-regality took a long jump to the Maritime Provinces. They have been to Prince Edward Island and viewed the great white sea beaches of the "Million Acre Farm"; they have heard the hum of the thriving steel industry in Nova Scotia and watched miles of fruitful orchards in New Brunswick. The pictures on this page show how Charlottetown turned out to honour the Duke, and they indicate that the men of the older and more staid East are just as hearty in their greeting as those of the young and buoyant prairie.

Indeed, everywhere—in Toronto, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Montreal, Sydney, Charlottetown—the spontaneity of the attitude of the Canadian people to the Duke and his family has been most marked.

THIS means more than appears on the surface. It is easy to explain the enthusiasm of those who follow a political leader. Theodore Roosevelt appeals to the "Bull Mooseters" in Chicago as a stirring individual embodying certain principles and personal qualities which they admire, and they cheer for him. The Duke does not attempt to thrill his audiences with oratory. He claims no "policies." Yet, when he comes into their midst thousands of hard-working people all over the Dominion close their offices, don gala attire and line up twelve deep on the roadway to cheer his carriage on its stately way.

THE esteem of the Canadian people for their Governor-General is to a degree a measure of the unique position he holds among public officials on this continent. Canadians are deferent, sometimes almost reverential towards him. When the Duke drives to the races, a turfman, no matter how emotional, would not think of deposing the proud postillions and dragging the vice-regal carriage inside the gates. The Governor-General is never received in that hectic, baseball-fan style which the United States exhibits so often to the President. The Chief Executive of the American Republic is elected by the people on a political platform. He belongs to the people. The Governor-General is not in politics, nor is he of the people. He is a diplomat from the old world who discharges

THE DUKE VISITS PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



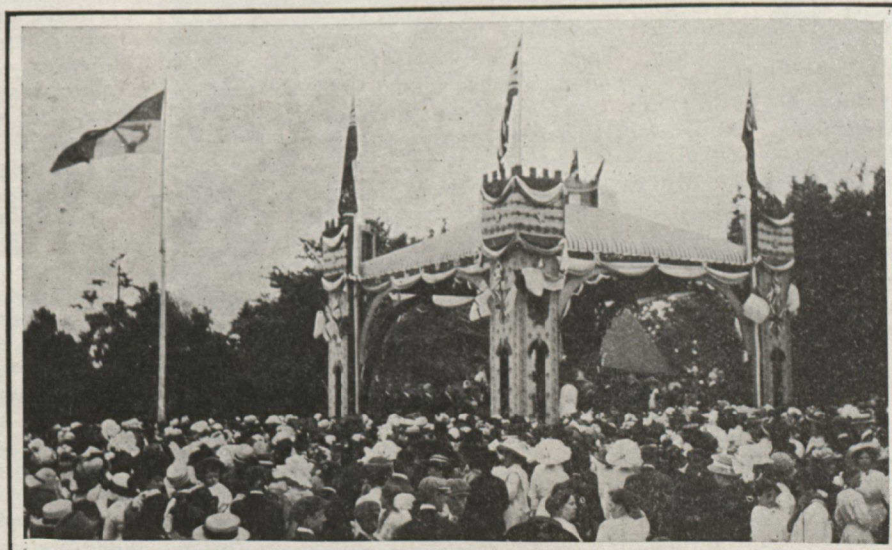
AT CHARLOTTETOWN DEPOT.

The Duke and Princess Patricia Leaving the Railway Station.



THE GALA CARRIAGE.

The Vice-Regal Party Driving to Government House, Charlottetown.



THE WELCOME IN THE PARK.

The Duke Says "Thank You" to the P.E.I. Government for Their Loyal Reception. Photographs Bayer, Charlottetown.

certain executive functions, and represents somewhat in Canada the sovereignty which is invested in the King of England. Except it be in sympathy and zeal for democracy, the Governor-General is not "American," using that word to include Ottawa as well as Washington. The head of the Canadian Government resembles more the President of the Republic of France than the occupant of the White House. The French President is divorced from active politics and sits in exclusive majesty; like him, the Governor-General is part of the Government, but not of it.

ASIDE from the constitutional prestige of his office and the glitter of his rank, the Governor-General has an important role in the national life of the Dominion. That is as a personage. Grey was a luminous personality, a creator of Canadian public opinion, who will be remembered by posterity as such as well as for his pro-consulship. A

Downing Street rule is that the Governor-General must steer clear of local politics. That would seem to fetter his activity completely. But it works out that the Governor-General may give his time to those national movements parliamentarians do not care to handle.

THERE is a deep meaning in such duties as laying corner-stones and accepting loyal addresses which comprise the Governor-General's daily round. A critic of very republican leanings might complain that he could not see the value of functions like these; that they were a perpetual fete at the expense of the Canadian taxpayer. But this is exactly what we pay for. While Mr. Republican is taking a sun bath in his sail-boat these fine August days, the Governor-General is about his business, trowel in hand; mingling with the people of Canada, a reminder to them in his very presence of the traditions overseas which made the Dominion possible; the disinterested and impartial arbiter of subtle problems of their nationhood.

THE incessant travelling on trains and steamboats, daily necessity of greeting thousands of strange people, constant subjection to the inspection of the populace are a strain which few of us who take a holiday when the Duke comes to town, realize that he undergoes. It was reported the other day that King George, who has been "doing" the British Isles pretty thoroughly this summer, is showing signs of the wear and tear of the functions which he has attended. In Canada His Majesty's uncle is performing the same social duties to the Canadian people. Uncle and nephew hard at work in the heat of summer, while the holiday world looks to the seashore and mountains—surely princes are not indulged by their subjects these days. No presidential candidate labours more strenuously and is required to be more omnipresent. The Duke has the work of a politician and the ceremonial responsibility of a June bridegroom.