

former years. The need of wise and helpful counsel is perhaps greater than ever. Political experience in the widest sense of the term cannot fail to be invaluable, but in the somewhat critical frame of mind of the electorate and of the parties in parliament, party political affiliations of too marked a character would, I greatly fear, be certain to create embarrassment.

I have no hesitation in saying that I believe Lord Willingdon enjoys in very special measure the qualities and qualifications for the high office of Governor-General to which I have specially referred, and which I believe to be so all important, particularly at the present time. My view I believe is generally shared by citizens of Canada who had the pleasure of meeting Lord Willingdon during his recent brief visit to Canada.

This conclusion does not imply any lack of appreciation of the very notable qualifications of all the other gentlemen whose names have been mentioned in this connection. I have no doubt that each of them is well qualified from many points of view. With respect to Lord Willingdon, however, I feel that I can express a preference with perfect confidence. Of the types mentioned in your letter he belongs to the one which I am sure would be most generally approved, and in the existing circumstances his age would, I believe, be regarded as an advantage rather than otherwise. I can assure you that his appointment would meet with the cordial approval of the Government and be most acceptable to the country. That Lady Willingdon would be equally welcomed by the people of the Dominion I have not the least doubt.

Again may I say that it is with great diffidence that I venture to express my opinion in this all important matter. Had I the slightest misgiving with respect to Lord Willingdon's suitability for the post, I should be quick to mention it, as I have been ready to point out what I consider to be all important considerations. I shall be happy, indeed, if the preference I have expressed should commend itself to His Majesty, to yourself, and to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs.

With kindest regards etc.

W. L. MACKENZIE KING

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*Le secrétaire aux Dominions au Gouverneur général*  
*Dominions Secretary to Governor General*

TELEGRAM

London, June 7, 1926

CONFIDENTIAL. Following announcement will be published here in the morning papers of Wednesday. Begins. His Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve of the appointment of Viscount Willingdon, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.B.E., to be Governor General of Canada in succession to General Lord Byng of Vimy, G.C.B., M.V.O., whose term of office will shortly expire. Ends.