

The removal of such a national leader as SIR JOHN MACDONALD must of course have a very potent effect upon the future course of Canadian affairs. We may hope that his marked personality and determined policy will long serve to guide Canadian statesmanship: but in the restless life of a young people each day brings new problems, and the knowledge of this fact is already stirring the Canadian mind. The question uppermost seems to be: upon whom shall devolve the responsibilities of carrying on the Government of which SIR JOHN MACDONALD was the head and soul? That is a question of such moment, that it may well be approached with something of that deliberate caution which the late Premier always applied to national affairs. It is, we observe, stated that the HON. J. J. C. ABBOTT has already received an intimation of the desire of the GOVERNOR-GENERAL that he should accept the task of carrying on the government of the country. His acceptance of the duty all parties would, we imagine, welcome as a prudent interim arrangement, and there would probably be no difficulty in bringing the present session of the Dominion Parliament to a close by the end of the present month, on the full understanding that the reconstruction of the Cabinet would be left until the vacation. There is no very important business pending at Ottawa, and this course of proceeding would seem most fitted to the present wishes and needs of the Canadian people. It appears to be assumed that MR. ABBOTT would not care to become the permanent head of the Government: and if that be so, there would be everything to gain by the lapse of an interval in which to judge of the course best calculated to preserve the unity and national well-being of the Dominion which SIR JOHN MACDONALD did so much to create and sustain. In view of the reconstruction which must come sooner or later, the names of two or three notable associates of the late Premier are foremost in the public mind. SIR JOHN THOMPSON has won for himself the respect of all during his comparatively short career as a Dominion minister. He has shown himself to possess many of the qualifications of a vigorous administrator and capable leader, though whether his preferences do not lie in the direction of a judicial rather than a political career is a consideration which must not be altogether lost sight of. SIR CHARLES TUPPER, on the other hand, has a lifelong experience of Canadian affairs, and of those foreign matters which closely concern Canadian interests: and while there would not seem to be any craving on his part to