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There is today, within this stately and historic room, much of the urbane spirit of that first among the King's Prime Ministers, Sir Robert Walpole. It is true, I believe, that when he succeeded to the leadership in the House of Commons in Eighteenth Century England, and when he began the development of the system which we know and recognise as Cabinet Government, his conduct and motives did not pass unchallenged. The very title of the office which latterly attached to him - as First Lord of the Treasury - I mean the title of Prime Minister, - carried with it an implied reproach. It is of record that in February, 1741, the House of Lord protested that Walpole had so far arrogated to himself the conduct of the public business as to have become "the sole and Prime Minister".