

be proposed. The chief point of administration is, in fact, the employment of *discretion*, the discreet and wise use of the resources of the nation for the national welfare.

### FOREIGN POLICY

The position of the King with regard to this power was originally due to his position as representative of the State in dealings with other States; and this, as we have before said (p. 9), was probably due to his character as military leader. Certainly 'foreign policy' is one of the oldest of the prerogatives of the Crown, and was one of the very last to be brought under Parliamentary control. How it is now exercised, we shall see later (p. 234); here we are concerned with seeing how the administrative authority of the Crown was extended to internal matters.

### THE ROYAL DOMAINS

This was probably (though the story is obscure) due largely to the position of the King as a great feudal landowner. Especially after the Norman Conquest, owing to forfeitures and confiscations, as well as to the complicated system of feudal land tenure then set up, the King, especially if he were at all a prudent man, was so greatly the most wealthy person in the country, that his domains were, naturally, the models for other domains, while his bailiffs, stewards, and other officials were the most skilful to be found. Naturally, also, to his Court came all the best artists, writers, philosophers, and expert craftsmen; and, as such persons gradually made it clear to the King that his own power and splendour were increased by the prosperity of his subjects, it is not surprising that intelligent rulers (of whom England has, happily, had a full share) should attempt to develop the resources of their country by