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Evolution of the Cabinet System

THE process by which the modern cabinet was evolved is not likely to be studied in detail by each and every individual; the fact that it exists is sufficient for the satisfying of the great majority without going any farther in order to ascertain its cause. But for the student of Political Science the study of the varied and intricate phases of government which have led to the formation of the modern cabinet, offers a wide field for intelligent consideration.

The cabinet, although it exists in almost every self-governing country and state is essentially of English origin. Consequently, in accordance with that salutary custom which all men pursue when looking for authoritative information concerning anything, viz., that of going back to the source whence it sprung, we shall go back to England and trace the rise and development of the cabinet under the presidency of the Prime Minister.

With regard to the history of the development of government in England preceding the coming of William of Normandy, little may be said other than that it was in a confused and very imperfect state.

The coming of William of Normandy and his conquering army in 1066 marks one of the most important turning-points in English constitutional history. He at once set to work to modify