

laborious a life, so constant an application, so high-minded a devotion to duty, only if we offer a career to the men whom we ask to serve us. Few lads of unusual promise will enter a service which is clouded by the uncertainties of political patronage, which offers slow promotion, and which holds out no better prospect than the command at the age of sixty or seventy of a tiny little ship which in the Royal Navy would be committed to a youngster of twenty-six or thereabouts. At present the "Canada," a little vessel mounting nothing more formidable than a pom-pom or two, has a sexagenarian for captain.

A glance at the Royal Navy will help us. One feature which strikes a Canadian about the Navy is its extraordinarily high standard of service and of duty. Accustomed as we are to an infinite toleration of blunders, carelessness and worse, provided they occur in the service of the Government, it is a distinct shock to us to contemplate a service whose members are as ruthlessly just to each other as are the servants of a great railway corporation, where one mistake ruins a career, where no mercy is shown to weakness or wrong-doing. Again, we are accustomed to seeing Government departments inert and hidebound; the Admiralty is one of the most alert institutions in the world. It seized upon and helped to improve wireless telegraphy; it took up submarine navigation and made rapid strides in it; its dealings with marine boilers and turbine engines have outstripped the enterprise of commercial firms; in connexion with guns and torpedoes it has a singular list of inventions to its credit; it is laying down a funnelless battleship in advance of the great shipping companies; and its recent exploits in originating the "all-big-gun-battleship," the cruiser-battleship, and the giant destroyer have been most impressive.

Our problem can be stated in two ways. What chance have we in Canada, with our lax public morality, with our low standards of public service, of building up in a reasonably short time a naval service and a naval administration which could compare for a moment with the Royal Navy