

express an opinion as to the one who might be expected to possess the requisite qualifications in largest measure. I should, perhaps, say at once that the place Lord Byng has won in the affections of the Canadian people and in the confidence of all who have had to do with the administration of public affairs in Canada during his term of office, is such as to render exceedingly difficult any choice of a successor. It is, I believe, essential that whoever is chosen should possess qualities such as those which have won for His Excellency the favourable regard in which he is held alike in official and in unofficial circles.

I should put first and foremost in this connection His Excellency's natural willingness and ability to come quickly and personally in touch not only with all parts of the country but with all classes as well, and his complete detachment from party politics, both in fact, and in the public mind. Lord Byng's singular appreciation of, and ready sympathy with all that pertains to the lot of the average man and his impartial attitude generally have gone far, I believe, to establish through him as the representative of the Crown an attachment to the Crown itself which has been unsurpassed at any time in our political history.

The very evident determination on Lord Byng's part to maintain in his relations with his Ministers in Canada a detachment from the party politics of the United Kingdom as well as of Canada, a detachment as complete as that which His Majesty himself maintains in his relations with his Ministers in Great Britain, has begotten a sense of security and confidence on the part of His Excellency's advisers equal to that felt by the public in His Excellency as the representative of the King. In a word, Lord Byng has succeeded in banishing from the public mind and from the mind of his Ministers any suspicion that he regards himself as the representative of the Government of Great Britain or of any of its Departments rather than as the representative of His Majesty. In adhering to this strict constitutional attitude His Excellency has avoided the only point at which the relations between the Crown or its representative and the people of this Dominion have ever been in the least imperilled. It is in no way lessening the part played by his illustrious predecessors in this particular to say that responsible self-government in Canada has never reached a more satisfactory stage of development than that enjoyed under Lord Byng as Governor-General. It is not less important to the Empire than to our Dominion that this splendid position should be maintained.

It may appear that I am unnecessarily emphasizing the importance of the constitutional phase. If I do so, it is because I believe it lies at the root of all else in the relations between the Dominions and the Mother Country, and because it has assumed a new importance in the light of the social and political developments which have taken place since the War. The emergence of new political parties in the country, and of groups in parliament has altered old alignments in more directions than one. In the position of Governor-General the many exceptional qualities which have given to English life in politics its enduring traditions are required in equal measure with