

C211119

-35-

The new problems arising from the postwar relationship of the Empire were brought to the front by King's fearless and independent attitude.

He showed the same energy in asserting complete self-government in matters of Canadian concern when, in 1926, he resigned as Prime Minister because the Governor General refused to act on his advice to dissolve parliament. The government formed by the leader of the opposite party, whom the Governor had called to office, was almost immediately defeated in parliament. Notwithstanding this defeat, he was granted the dissolution which had been refused to King, whose government had never been defeated. At the general elections which ensued, the Governor General's action became a main issue in the campaign and King was returned to office. When, a month or two later, the Imperial Conference of 1926 was held in London, its proceedings were concerned mainly with questions of constitutional relationships within the Empire.

Personalities meant much at this conference. In a group picture of its members, Churchill shows a fine, resolute face; Lord Balfour, noble and spiritualized by the signs of old age, then eighty, appears as the heart of the whole meeting. Close to him are Austin Chamberlain's worldly and nervous features, next to the quizzical face of Mr. Baldwin, all too obviously good-natured. And, among them, King's face, firm