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HAMILTON, CANADA

### THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

#### Functions of the "Official Head" of a Province

The appointment of a new Lieutenant-Governor for Ontario has revived interest in the functions of that official. Technically speaking, he is in charge of the administration of government of the province; actually, he acts only on the advice of the executive council or cabinet, and performs no duties that could not be fulfilled by the chief justice of the province, unless they be social duties which are his by tradition, but not by law.

It would not be an easy matter, if desirable, to abolish the position of Lieutenant-governor, because the appointment is required by the British North America Act, the constitution of Canada, and the provinces have allotted to him various duties not common to all. For instance, in British Columbia, the lieutenant-governor is authorized to transmit by message to the Legislature the draft of any law which appears to him to be desirable. And in Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia he appoints the member of the Upper House or Legislative Council. In Quebec he appoints the Speaker of that body.

The lieutenant-governor is authorized to choose the ministers who shall assist him in the governing of the province and constitutional practice requires that he shall choose them from the party having a majority of the members of the Legislature. In practice, the lieutenant-governor selects the party leader having the largest following to form a ministry, and almost as a matter of course approves of the selections made for the various portfolios.

The other duties of the lieutenant-governor are:

To summon, prorogue or dissolve the legislature.

To recommend the appropriation of the revenues and all money bills.

To assent to or veto bills or reserve them for the consideration of the governor-general.

He appoints all officers necessary to the work of administration.

He may dismiss ministers or demand their resignations.

The lieutenant-governor, contrary to popular impression, is not a representative of the King, and holds no commission from him. He is appointed by the Governor-General in Council and may be removed by the same on the advice of the Dominion Cabinet. Munro's "Constitution of Canada" says he presides over the administration and forms a part of the legislature.

#### A Captain of Finance.

"The Germans know that their country is down and out," said Sir John Aird, in a recent interview, "and their temperament makes them realize that only vigilance and efficiency will get to the top again. We must be eternally vigilant also, and watch them."

Sir John Aird is one of Canada's captains of finance, whose position of general manager of one of our largest banks enables him to make an accurate survey of the whole financial and commercial situation. A few weeks ago he visited France and Belgium for the purpose of studying the after-war situation. He was impressed with the progress made in the work of restoration.

"Canada," he said, "can provide many things that are needed in these countries, apart altogether from food-stuffs, such as live stock, beef, pork products, and cereals of all kinds. They need all kinds of manufactured goods, such as machinery, structural steel, paper, boots and shoes, cotton and woolen goods, and agricultural implements—articles that they require immediately. I think people fail to realize how important it is that what we can do in the way of assistance, should be done promptly."

Sir John Aird was born on November 15, 1855, in the town of Longueuil on the south shore of the St. Lawrence river opposite Montreal, but in his early boyhood the family moved to Ontario, and Sir John was educated in the Toronto Model School. Shortly after leaving school he took up clerical work in a railway office and for six years he made that his occupation.

In 1879, at the age of 24 years, he became private secretary to the general manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and after passing through many positions, he became general manager.

Speaking of Canada's overseas trade, Sir John remarked that "the rate of exchange is one of the difficulties in the way. I am hopeful that, once the Peace Treaty is ratified, some arrangement will be effected for stabilizing the rate of exchange—I believe \$4.50 for the pound would be a reasonable figure all round—then we should know where we were and be able to get on with business, which is badly handicapped by the present uncertainty."

#### Lived on a "Pharm."

"I want some intelligent men as hospital orderlies," announced Lieut. Worley. "Any pharmacists in the company?" A flaxen-haired individual shuffled forward. "Ye gods," said the lieutenant, "are you a pharmacist?" "Shure ay bane pharmacist," was the indignant reply. "Vy ay bane work on pharm all mae life."

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Ontario