

Not used  
Alton

D 49984

A.

→ he self-govt was

Very nearly one hundred years ago, an illustrious predecessor of Lord Athlone dipped into the problems of British North America and suggested as a guiding principle a concept of free government which even today has a fresh and realistic ring to it.

"Let the forms and the substance of our Constitution (he wrote) come to maturity in this part of America. (The provinces of British North America) should stand in conscious strength and in the full equipment of self-government as a free people bound by the ties of gratitude and affection."

His Excellency and Her Royal Highness have been the witnesses of the way in which this "full equipment of self-government" enabled Canada, as a free people, to mobilise and make effective a great effort in the fight for the world's freedom. They have seen how a united Canada was able to take its part in this world-encircling conflict and to emerge with a new strength, not to be exerted in any arbitrary or arrogant use of power, but as a nation strong to meet the grim needs of war and ever stronger to share in the burdens which follow in the wake of war; the alleviation of distress, the relief of suffering, the provision of mutual aid in material shapes - far beyond the visitation of any one of us a few brief years ago.