

P. 167: The "inexperience" of Abbott, Thompson, Bowell, and Laurier in ¹⁸⁹⁶⁻1896. (The context refers to relations with the Governor-General.) Abbott had been Solicitor-General, 1862-63, and Leader of the Senate, 1887-1891; he was an M.L.A., 1857-67, and an M.P., 1867-74 and 1880-87, and certainly a very prominent member of the Conservative party throughout, after Confederation. Bowell had been a Minister of the Crown for 16 years before he became Prime Minister, and a member of one House or the other for 27 years. Thompson was a Minister in Nova Scotia from 1878 to 1882, and Prime Minister of the province, 1882, then a Judge, and then Minister of Justice from 1885 on. He was by common consent one of the finest constitutional lawyers Canada has known. Laurier, when he took office in 1896, had been an M.P. for 22 years, and had held office in the Mackenzie Government in 1877-78. He was unusually well read in constitutional law and practice.

P. 129: "The Spanish ambassador at Ottawa" in 1882: There is not, even now, so much as a Spanish Minister at Ottawa.

P. 139: On the Governor-General's powers: "all members of the Privy Council must be sworn in; no member of Parliament may give Parliament his reasons for resigning without the consent of the Governor-General". The first is not a "power" of the Governor at all (the appointment of Privy Councillors is); and the Governor has nothing whatever to do with the resignation of M.P.s (it is Ministers who must get his permission to state their reasons for resigning from the Ministry).

P. 154: Blake's "one defect" was "an innate hostility to all personifications of authority, the unhappy result, doubtless, of an overdisciplined childhood". I have referred this to a scholar who is more familiar with the Blake papers than, I should think, anyone else living. From what he tells me, it is clear that Dr. Neuendorff's statement is just a flight of the imagination, as far as Blake's childhood is concerned.

P. 180: "Quite possibly the fact of the Duke (of Connaught) being royal awakes unconscious memories of the struggle in England between King and Parliament and conditioned Borden to a mild hostility to the Governor-General." To anyone who knew Sir Robert Borden, this excursion into psycho-analysis is just childish.

P. 180: Dr. Neuendorff, citing Borden's Memoirs, vol. II, p. 573, says that he accused the Duke of Connaught of "mental dullness". This suggests a general