

WHAT OF CANADA?

President when it is known who are the Electors. If every Elector at the latest Presidential election had believed that Mr. Roosevelt or Mr. Taft was the ideal man for the Presidency, not a vote would have been cast for either unless there developed some insanity in the College.⁶

This sort of thing, the unique exception in the American Constitution, is the rule in the British Constitution. The King may choose only the one selected for him. Every Minister is in form the servant of and responsible to the King, he is in fact responsible to the House of Commons elected by the people. The King reigns but he does not rule and does not try to rule; he leaves the ruling to the people to whom it properly belongs. The Ministers selected in fact if not in form by the House of Commons transact all the public business, select Judges, Admirals, Generals, Ambassadors.

This we call democratic Kingship, and it is the only kind we—or the King—would have. Louis XIV of France said, "L'Etat c'est moi," "The State! I am the State"; the arrogant Hohenzollern said, "There is but one will and that is mine, him who opposes me I will crush." Our King's throne is "broad based upon his people's will." He is the head of the State, all others are his people: there is no heaven-born caste whose blood differs from that of others. The Prince of Wales, whom Americans had but the other day an opportunity of seeing and judging, gave an illustration of democracy:

In Auckland, New Zealand, where he felt it right to refuse that striking railroad men should make exception in his case and run the royal train, when they would not (or perhaps could not) carry out the rest of the schedule.

"Will they run the trains for the people?"

"No.

"Then they cannot run trains for me. I am one of the people."

(6) I may, perhaps, be permitted to repeat here what I said at the meeting January 23, 1920, of the Ohio State Bar Association, at Dayton:

"Last evening I was entertained at dinner by a number of eminent lawyers of this State. The conversation turned on the coming Presidential election: the Democrats eliminated as a successful candidate every Republican whose name was suggested and the Republicans showed that no Democrat could hope to be elected. I asked, 'Why not take the Constitutional method, elect a number of first class men and let them elect the President? Surely that is the theory of the Constitution.' They almost simultaneously and quite unanimously cried, 'That is the Theory,' and let it go at that."