

EARL GREY'S SUCCESSOR

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THERE is a good deal of doubt existing as to who is to succeed Earl Grey as Governor-General of Canada, and this doubt has been increased considerably by the death of King Edward. Whilst the late King was on the throne it was believed to be more than probable that the Duke of Connaught, King Edward's younger brother, would be appointed, and in well-informed circles it was known that this was the King's wish.

The change in the monarchy has, however, altered this as it has changed a good many impending and possible events. The responsibilities of the Duke of Connaught as a figure of the State will become very much greater under the new condition of things. King Edward was, of course, able to rely to a large extent upon his son, now King George the Fifth, to fulfil many functions which it was not possible or not necessary for the head of the realm to carry out. Consequently, the Duke of Connaught was left comparatively free from the obligation of performing important State duties. He was, in fact, left a good deal out of the limelight.

King George has no brother to help him through with his ceremonial duties, and his eldest son, Prince Edward, who now becomes Duke of Cornwall and heir to the throne, is not yet sixteen years old. In this case the new King will be obliged to make use of the services of his uncle, the Duke of Connaught, who has just passed his sixtieth birthday, and, it is hardly necessary to say, is fully able to rise to his opportunities. He will very probably, for instance, take the place of his royal nephew at the inauguration of the South African Union.

It would seem, then, that Canada must be denied the possession of a member of the royal family as Governor-General. King Edward gave a fair number of opportunities to Prince Arthur, the Duke of Connaught's only son, and sent him on a number of important diplomatic missions, among them that to the Mikado of Japan to present to his oriental majesty the Order of the Garter. But Prince Arthur of Connaught is only twenty-seven, and that is considered, perhaps rightly, an impossibly early age at which a man may hold high office in the Empire. The young prince will doubtless have other chances to distinguish himself, and meanwhile he has his military position—he is a captain in the Scots Greys—to look after. The Duke of Connaught and his son are the only two princes of the royal family, who may be considered as out of the succession, to show more than ordinary ability in the handling of public affairs.

So, it seems, Canada must again be content with a peer or a commoner to stand as nominal and vice-regal head of her destinies. Earl Carrington's name was mentioned in connection with the prospective vacancy, and Lord Carrington is in many respects a capable man. But he has now been chosen Lord Chamberlain and placed in charge of the ceremonial duties attaching to the British Court. This was the first official appointment made by King George, and apparently in addition to filling it, Lord Carrington will continue to act as president of the Board of Agriculture.

Another name has been mentioned as in the running for the post of Governor-General, and it is one that may be something of a surprise to most Canadians. I give the information for what it is worth. It is that of Viscount Esher. Lord Esher has been a *persona grata* at the court of King Edward, and he was also well in front of the course of happenings in Queen Victoria's circle. He was joint editor of Queen Victoria's letters, the book of the decade, though Mr. Arthur C. Benson did most of the work. The joint editorship was looked upon as representative of letters and of diplomacy, Lord Esher, King Edward's particular nominee, being, to put it that way, the prudent check upon Mr. Benson's facile pen.

Viscount Esher has knocked about the world a great deal, though I don't recollect that he knows much about Canada. He is a Londoner and is still two years on the right side of sixty. His lordship, who is not an insular Englishman by a long way, married Miss Van de Weyer, daughter of a notable man who was Belgian minister in London. They have two sons and two daughters. Lord Esher had a term as member of Parliament before he succeeded his father in the peerage ten years or so ago. Then for seven years he was private secretary to the Duke of Devonshire, when the Duke was still in active politics and was known as the Marquis of Hartington. For another seven years Lord Esher was secretary to the Office of Works, a non-party official post. Finally, he was Chairman of the War Office Reconstitution Committee which sat at the end of the Boer War and had such a tale of incompetence and jobbery told to it as never was heard before in Britain. Viscount Esher must have an ample secret chamber in his mind stored with facts concerning those military reputations that escaped the refining fire after the war as well as of those that were not so fortunate. In the world of authorship Lord Esher's name is down to a couple of works called respectively "Footprints of Statesmen" and "The Yoke of Empire."

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General Benson and the Reservists.

MAJOR-GENERAL FREDERICK WILLIAM BENSON, the senior Canadian officer in the British Army, has had a scheme whereby the retired officer with a capital of, say, \$5,000 and the retired reservist with a small pension, can lead a quiet and useful and lucrative life in breeding horses for the British Army.

The officer wants a place where he can secure a little sport and do some fruit farming or some other similar pursuit. Horse-breeding, if conducted in the right manner, might possibly develop into a big concern and be a nursery for the supply of cavalry horses.

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Drama in Vancouver.

VANCOUVER theatre patrons were hugely excited the other day when J. F. Harley, representing Shuberts and Liebler Consolidated Attraction Company, dropped into town and remarked that the big outlaw syndicate were considering the erection of a playhouse in the city. A Shubert theatre for Vancouver would mean direct theatrical connection with New York. The coast city would have as strong a line of attractions as Toronto or Montreal.



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