

As a historical coincidence, and by way of comparison, it may be observed that twice only in the recent history of Canada has the wisdom of the Royal selection of Governor General been challenged by any considerable portion of the English press; and since the occasions are not dissimilar, either with respect to the gravity of the subjects to be dealt with, or with respect to the popular qualifications of the individuals selected, it may not be out of place to note the parallel.

Upon the abrupt and somewhat inglorious termination of Lord Durham's five months' Canadian reign, the ministry of Lord Melbourne found itself suddenly called upon to appoint a new Governor General on whom should devolve the duty of prosecuting the work which the irritable Earl had left incomplete.

To the astonishment of the influential classes in England, and the dismay of the commercial classes in Canada, the Statesman chosen was no other than the Right Honorable Charles Poulett Thomson, the then President of the Board of Trade. Those who remember the severe animadversions of the press on the appointment, the angry comments and gloomy forebodings to which the selection gave rise, will probably be inclined to receive such opinions from such sources with considerable reserve. "Stop the Pique," "Stop the Pique," wrote one with more passion than judgment; "don't freight an English frigate with an English Governor whose policy is to destroy English rule in America." "Don't intrust the government of that important Province to one who has distinguished himself chiefly by his antipathy to the Canada Timber Trade, and for his attachment to Baltic interests." "Don't send one to govern who has had no experience of government," who is moreover "corrupt and indolent," "frail in health and feeble in purpose," and whose "despatch box, if carried in one hand, must be balanced by a medicine chest in the other," and, moreover, who acknowledges as a political ally that member of the House of Commons who had counselled Canadians to "shake off the baneful domination of the Mother Country."