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GALLUP POLL OF CANADA

SLIGHT MAJORITY WANT CANADIAN AS THE NEXT
GOVERNOR GENERAL

But Progressive Conservatives
Dissent from View of Majority

By CANADIAN INSTITUTE
of PUBLIC OPINION

TORONTO, March 22 -- The feeling of nationhood which dominates the thought of Canadians today is reflected in many an issue put to the voters through the Gallup Poll, and is once more reflected in the fact that, today, more than half the people of the Dominion feel that future Governors General of Canada should be Canadians.

Dissenting from this view are supporters of the Progressive Conservative party.

Because the issue was raised on the public platform recently, the Institute studied the views of Canadians by putting this question to a representative cross-section of voters:

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"IT HAS BEEN THE CUSTOM FOR THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA TO COME FROM BRITAIN. DO YOU APPROVE OF THIS OR DO YOU THINK A CANADIAN SHOULD BE APPOINTED TO THIS OFFICE?"

Taking the opinion of the country as a whole (and there are some striking sectional differences), opinion divides as follows:

Should come from Britain32%
Should come from Canada59
Undecided 9

The way opinion divides on this issue is consistent with other polls dealing with issues of sovereignty. For example, it will be recalled that a few months ago, the Institute reported that about six in every ten Canadians feel that the Dominion should have the right of amending her own constitution without going to the British Parliament, while about a third of the population felt Canada should continue as at present.

One factor in lifting the national majority to 59 per cent is the strong sentiment in Quebec in favor of a Canadian Governor General. Opinion in Quebec compares, for example, with that in Ontario like this:

	Quebec	Ontario
British.....	10%	41%
Canadian.....	81	51
Undecided	9	8

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1940-1950,
MG 26 J 4, Volume 377, pages C260783-C262184

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