

Inside Canada by Pierre Beaudry

The Queen's men

Parliament and the prime ministry are snugly under the control of the royal family's mandarins

Most persons are under two delusions when it comes to Canada. One is that Canada is a nation—in the same sense that, say, the United States, France, or the Soviet Union are nations. It is not. Canada is a colony, that colony most directly ruled by Britain today.

The second delusion is that Canada is ruled by a prime minister and a parliament. Just as in the case of Britain, which is ruled by the same oligarchical families that ruled her five centuries ago—with “the best parliament money can buy” as a side-show—so Canada is ruled by an oligarchical elite, a kind of extension of the British oligarchy concentrated in the Queen's household. The principal institution of Canada's government is the Queen's Privy Council, or P.C. Prime Ministers come and go; the Queen's men remain.

I want to take a look at the British-trained cabal which makes this real political and administrative decisions in Ottawa, controlling every Prime Minister in office since the last depression. As an article of the now-defunct *La Patrie* newspaper put it in July of 1965, this “system is fundamentally the same today as it was in the 16th century at the time of William Cecil, with the nuance that today, it is the establishment rather than the Queen in person that perpetuates it. This establishment, this caste behind the Power is thus named after the official Anglican Church, the Established Church of England.”

It was in 1930 that this caste was

officially created as a direct agency above the different federal government ministries under then Prime Minister Richard B. Bennett. When in 1935, Mackenzie King became Prime Minister, the Queen's men had become the “permanent government.”

An example of how powerful these men are is the case of Arnold Heeney. According to a recently published book, *The Ottawa Men*, by J. L. Granstein, civil servant Heeney wrote a memorandum to King in July 1939, telling him he, Heeney, should become Clerk of the Privy Council and that necessitated a “reorganization of the P.M.'s Office.” On March 22, Heeney drafted an Order in Council for his own appointment. The order went through, appointing him Clerk of the P.C. and Secretary of the Cabinet. British Intelligence's Gen. Maurice Pope reported at the time, “Arnold came into the P.M.'s office as a Crown Prince.”

Since 1867, under the constitution, the P.C. has been the executive power of Canada, answerable only to the Queen, who must approve all decisions of Parliament. The British North America Acts, as the constitution is called, states:

“Where a Bill passed by the Houses of the Parliament is presented to the Governor General for the Queen's Assent, he shall declare, according to his Discretion, but subject to the Provisions of this Act and to Her Majesty's Instructions, either that he assents thereto in the Queen's Name, or that he withholds the Queen's Assent, or

that he reserves the Bill for the Signification of the Queen's Pleasure.”

Today's mandarins are Jim Coumts, Tom Axworthy, Sen. Keith Davey, Michael Pitfield, and Gordon Osbaldeston.

When John Diefenbaker became P.M. in 1957, he was a total captive of the civil servants. Not one of his own men became part of the Privy Council caste during his mandate.

In 1958, it was the mandarin caste under a British national, Tom Kent, that put Lester B. Pearson in power. Pearson immediately made him his political secretary. Kent was then branded by Diefenbaker as “the Chief of the Chief.”

As *La Patrie* put it, “One does not accede to the caste if he is of French origin or is a Catholic; if his ancestors are not *all* of the white race, if his ancestors are not of British origin.” Kent was educated at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, England and became a Canadian in 1957. He served in the Intelligence Service for the U.K. War Office and was an editor of the *Guardian* and the *Economist*. He held the critical post of Director of Special Planning Secretariat of the P.C. under Pearson. He is currently a Patron of the Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific, a United World College presided over by Prince Charles. (Osbaldeston and Coumts are patrons of the Canadian United World College and of the Niagara Institute, a post-industrial think tank.)

The main function of the Planning Secretariat is to act as an “inner cabinet” in charge of policing any differences of view between ministers or departments, and to brief the Queen on the day-to-day conduct of ministers. It is essentially a spying operation that has no papers or records, supervising discussions by ministers in all the Cabinet committees.