

The High Commissioner for Canada.—With the federation of the provinces in 1867, a new political entity was brought into existence, which could not avail itself of the services of the provincial agents. To overcome the inadequacy of the methods of communication between the Canadian and Imperial Governments (carried on at that time by correspondence between the Governor-General and the Secretary of State), the position of Canadian High Commissioner was created in 1879 (See R.S.C., 1906, c. 15). This official is the representative of the Canadian Government in London, appointed by the Canadian Government and clothed with specific powers as a medium through which constant and confidential communications pass between the Governments of Great Britain and of Canada. The duties of the office were defined in the Act as follows:—

(1) To act as representative and resident agent of the Dominion in the United Kingdom, and in that capacity to execute such powers and to perform such duties as may from time to time be conferred upon and assigned to him by the Governor in Council;

(2) To take the charge, supervision and control of the immigration offices and agencies in the United Kingdom, under the Minister of the Interior;

(3) To carry out such instructions as he may from time to time receive from the Governor in Council respecting the commercial, financial and general interests of the Dominion in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

Sir Alexander Galt was the first Canadian High Commissioner, holding office from November, 1879, until May, 1883, when he was succeeded by Sir Charles Tupper. Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal was appointed in 1896, Sir George H. Perley in 1914, and the present incumbent, Hon. P. C. Larkin, in February, 1922.

The Agent of Canada in Paris.—A somewhat similar office is that of the Agent of Canada in Paris, first occupied by the Hon. Hector Fabre in 1882, whose duties were defined as:— “to spread information in France and on the continent of Europe regarding Canada, its resources and its advantages as a field for emigration. That he will also solicit the attention of the capitalists of France to the minerals, timber and fish products of Canada and the promise which they offer in return for their development.”

The agent is also instructed “to conform to any instructions which he may receive from the High Commissioner for Canada in London regarding steps to be taken to improve the commercial relations between France and Canada, and to report monthly to the Secretary of State the efforts which he may have made to carry out the duties entrusted to him.”

Hon. Hector Fabre held the office until his death in 1910. His successor, Hon. Philippe Roy, was appointed in May, 1911, under the title “Commissaire Général du Canada en France.”

Agents-General.—The older provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia still adhere to the practice of former days and are represented in London by Agents-General. These officials are appointed by the legislatures of the provinces under general authority given in the British North America Act, and act for their Governments in capacities very similar to that of the High Commissioner, with the exception, perhaps, that their duties have tended to become of a business rather than a diplomatic nature.