

Canadian Minister to the United States.—For many years the diplomatic business between Canada and the United States has been steadily increasing, as the natural result of the proximity of the two countries and the closeness of the business relationships between their citizens. Under the Treaty of 1909, the International Joint Commission, composed of three citizens of the United States and three citizens of Canada, was created to “prevent disputes regarding the use of boundary waters” and generally to adjust differences along the frontier. However, many other questions still remained to be settled through the medium of the British Embassy at Washington, and as these issues increased in importance, it was deemed advisable that Canada should be directly represented in the capital of the United States. The assent of the British Government to this plan was obtained at the Imperial Conference of 1926, when it was laid down in the report of the Inter-imperial Relations Committee that “the plenipotentiaries for the various British units should have full powers, issued in each case by the King on the advice of the Government concerned, indicating and corresponding to the part of the Empire for which they are to sign” Accordingly, on November 26, 1926, the Hon. Chas. Vincent Massey was appointed to be “His Majesty’s Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Washington, with the special object of representing in the United States of America the interests of the Dominion of Canada”. The United States Government has reciprocated by appointing Hon. William Phillips its first Minister to Canada.

Agents-General.—The older provinces of Nova Scotia, 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.