

## PART IV.—REPRESENTATIVES IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

### Section 1.—Representatives within the Empire.

The policy of the early North American colonies, of maintaining in London accredited representatives for business and diplomatic purposes, was recognized in the eighteenth century as being a more satisfactory means of communication with the British Government than that provided by occasional official visits or by correspondence. Edmund Burke, the noted British statesman, held the position of agent for the colony of New York for some years following 1771. Of the Canadian colonies, Nova Scotia was the first to adopt this plan, its Legislature having appointed an agent in London in 1761. New Brunswick was similarly represented in 1786, Upper Canada as early as 1794, Lower Canada in 1812 and British Columbia in 1857. For some years after 1845, several of the colonies were represented in London by Crown agents, appointed by the Secretary of State, and paid by the colonies themselves. This system, however, was of but short duration.

The older provinces of Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia still adhere to the practice of former days and are represented in London by Agents-General, as is also the province of Alberta. 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.

**The High Commissioner for Canada.**—With the federation of the provinces of British North America in 1867, a new political entity which could not avail itself of the services of the provincial agents was brought into existence. To supplement the ordinary method of communication between the Canadian and British Governments (which at that time was by correspondence between the Governor General and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and is now between the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada and the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs in London), the position of High Commissioner for Canada was created in 1880 (see R.S.C. 1927, c. 92). The duties of the office are defined in the Act as follows:—

“The High Commissioner shall—

- “(a) act as representative and resident agent of Canada in Great Britain and in that capacity, execute such powers and perform such duties as are, from time to time, conferred upon and assigned to him by the Governor in Council;
- “(b) take the charge, supervision and control of the immigration offices and agencies in Great Britain, under the Minister of Immigration and Colonization;
- “(c) carry out such instructions as he, from time to time, receives from the Governor in Council respecting the commercial, financial and general interests of Canada in Great Britain and elsewhere”

Sir Alexander Galt was the first Canadian High Commissioner, holding office from May 11, 1880, until May, 1883; in 1884 he was succeeded by Sir Charles Tupper. Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal was appointed in 1896. Sir George H. Perley took charge of the High Commissioner's Office in 1914 but was appointed High Commissioner only on Oct. 12, 1917. The Hon. P. C. Larkin was appointed in February, 1922, and after his decease (Feb. 3, 1930) the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson was appointed on Nov. 28, 1930. The office of the High Commissioner for Canada is in the Canadian Building, Trafalgar Square, London, S.W. 1.