

by correspondence. 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. Following Confederation, several of the provinces continued to adhere to, and in certain cases enlarge upon, the practice to the extent of themselves appointing Crown Agents or Agents General. Such developments as have taken place are dealt with on p. 92 of the 1934-35 Year Book.

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, 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. On Nov. 8, 1935, the Hon. Vincent Massey succeeded Mr. Ferguson in this post. The office of the High Commissioner for Canada is in Canada House, Trafalgar Square, London, S.W. 1.

High Commissioner of the United Kingdom in Canada.—His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom in April, 1928, appointed a High Commissioner in Canada, Sir William H. Clark, who was succeeded in January, 1935, by Sir Francis Floud, K.C.B. The High Commissioner resides in Ottawa, and his position corresponds to that of the High Commissioner for Canada in the United Kingdom. This appointment was made in consequence of discussions at the Imperial Conference of 1926. The relevant passage in the report of the Inter-Imperial Relations Committee runs as follows:—

“A special aspect of the question of consultation which we considered was that concerning the representation of Great Britain in the Dominions. By reason of his constitutional position, as explained in Section IV (b) of this report, the Governor General is no longer the representative of His Majesty's Government in Great Britain. There is no one therefore in the Dominion capitals in a position to represent with authority the views of His Majesty's Government in Great Britain.