

Governments are not at all likely to be permitted by their Parliaments to involve themselves in any idle apparatus." Professor Keith's opinion, however, was erroneous, and negatived by the action taken the next year, 1928, by both British and Canadian Governments in the appointment of a United Kingdom High Commissioner (Sir William Clark) to Ottawa.

Sir William Clark spoke of the office as being necessary not only to provide a channel of communication in place of the Governor General but also to meet other practical needs, such as trade.⁽¹⁾ Mr. Mackenzie King welcomed the move taken by the British Government in appointing a representative in Ottawa.

In April, 1927, he said: "There has developed more and more a tendency on the part of our respective Governments to deal with each other through personal representation rather than exclusively by despatches; I think all Governments have found that in the long run it saves a great ^{deal} of misunderstanding if a Government can communicate with its own agent, have that agent interview the other Government and report back. Where communications are left entirely to written despatches, very frequently those despatches are drawn as much for the purpose of concealing as of revealing what is most desirous to have expressed."⁽²⁾ In January, 1928, he elaborated thus: "The Imperial Conference (of 1926), composed of those members of the several governments within the Empire who have to

(1) See United Empire, Vol.24, 1933. pp.25-34; Empire Club of Canada, Addresses. 1929. (Toronto 1930). pp.20-34.

(2) H. of C. Debates, April 13, 1927. pp.2465-6.