

Effect of Change of Government
on Appointments

During the thirty-five-year period from 1922 till 1957, with only two exceptions, there was a Liberal Administration in Canada. The exceptions were Conservative Administration under Mr. Meighen for three months in 1926, and under Mr. Bennett from 1930 to 1935. Under Mr. Meighen's earlier Conservative leadership (1921-22) there was of course no real diplomatic representation abroad, and questions of diplomatic procedure barely arose. Under Mr. Bennett's regime, there were already established Legations in Washington, Paris, and Tokyo, and the High Commissioner's Office in London with virtually diplomatic status; there was also the semi-diplomatic Advisory Office in Geneva. No new posts were opened.

In British practice, the majority of diplomatic heads of Mission were customarily career men, and, generally speaking, they did not suffer by changes in the Home Government. They remained in their current posts, unless transferred in a normal routine way to another diplomatic post. Only the senior posts of Washington and Paris were sometimes liable to be filled by political or "outside" appointees designated by the Government of the day. On the whole, there was no political interference in the career incumbents' position and he had the normal Civil Service security, until the normal retirement age of 60.

In American practice, where most of the senior diplomatic positions were held by political or