

I submit these various cases as samples of the situation here without having put it in such shape that I could vouch for the exactness of them all, simply to give my general impression. If I were returning home next month as I expected, I intended to have a memorandum prepared which would be distinctly accurate in every particular, but there is no time at the moment nor do I think it necessary to do so just now. In fact I am dictating this hurriedly at the end of a very busy week and that must be my excuse for any inaccuracies.

I may say here that personally I have not had the slightest difficulty or unpleasantness with anyone in any part of the service here. They have always shown themselves ready and willing to discuss matters and give all information and try to meet my suggestions. My relations with all our colleagues are so pleasant that I know, without question, that I personally would have no difficulty on account of the matters I have referred to above. At the same time I do feel that the position of the High Commissioner here should be strengthened in every way that reasonably can be done. He is the representative of Canada in the eyes of the British public and should be so in reality in every way. My own feeling is that he should occupy here towards the different branches of the service about the same relation that is occupied in Ottawa by one of the Ministers when a colleague is absent or ill. Under these conditions if a Minister chooses or thinks it best in the public interest to give orders or advice in connection with any other department than his own he has the authority to do so, but of course exercises it with discretion regarding such other department and with the feeling that he must try and act as far as possible in a way that would appeal to the actual Minister as being in order and such as could be justified by himself. At the same time, of course, the policy and instructions regarding each branch here would emanate from Ottawa through this office. From what I have seen I believe that all the officials here would be pleased and satisfied with such a condition of affairs, and in fact I think that many times this summer they were really glad to have some one here to whom they could appeal and with whom they could discuss matters.

The position of the secretary here is sometimes rather difficult and particularly in relation to the various departments. Mr. Griffith is very attentive and capable. Sometimes he and the other men have not got along very smoothly and perhaps he is occasionally rather arbitrary, but it requires a special lot of patience to talk to all the people who come to this office with all kinds of difficulties and grievances. I think that on the whole he managed very well during the interregnum and I intend later on to suggest that he should get a special allowance for that time as his expenses were necessarily more than usual and he was unable to pay them out of the contingency vote as an actual High Commissioner could have done.

I have given a good deal of consideration to the status of the office here and whether it should be made a portfolio so that the High Commissioner would be a member of the Government. Mr. Harcourt told me he thought it