

assistance I might desire which would make my duties less exacting and less onerous. But the fact really is that . . . although the volume of work has largely increased, the duties are really much less exacting than they were, and the staff which has been considerably increased, is, as it at present exists, quite capable of coping with the requirements." (1) *

(1) Beckles Willson. The Life of Lord Stratford. pp.569, 574.

* New Zealand at that time had considered the appointment of a Cabinet Minister, even a Minister of External Affairs, to reside in London and to supplement the High Commissioner, whose duties were considered to be largely commercial. At a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute, held in the Hotel Victoria on March 10, 1925, Hon. Sir Thomas Myers, ex-Minister of Munitions and Customs, New Zealand, read a paper on the position of New Zealand within the Empire. In part he said:

Consultation by cable and despatch is ineffective unless supplemented by frequent personal contacts. I brought this question up in the Parliament of New Zealand in 1912, suggesting the appointment of a Minister of External Affairs, who would stand aloof from domestic and internal problems, and who would be located during the greater portion of the year in London. . .

An assembly of Ministers of External Affairs in London would permit of these representatives discussing from a non-political point of view and in a broad Imperial spirit, the various problems of Empire which are continually arising, and would help the Empire in speaking with one voice on foreign and other important questions. As an alternative I subsequently suggested that an hon. Minister, who would remain in constant touch with the British Government, might be appointed to carry out the task just referred to, thereby relieving High Commissioners from those political duties which at present absorb much of their valuable time.(2)

(2) Financial News, London, March 11, 1925. File 844-1924.