

On April 24, 1924, Mr. Fielding prepared a Confidential Memorandum on the subject which he sent to all members of the Cabinet. In this he opposed the idea of separate Canadian diplomatic representation at Washington, beyond the official (Mr. Mahoney) who was presently there, with an office attached to the British Ambassador. In this he argued that:

When there is important diplomatic work to be done, it can better be attended to by a Minister from Ottawa than by any resident representative in Washington. A Minister of the Dominion Cabinet, fresh from consultation with his colleagues, and reaching Washington within a few hours, would be a more capable and efficient agent of Canada. The comparative proximity of Ottawa to Washington and other important American cities makes it easy for business to be done directly by Canadian Ministers

Alternatively, he added, "if representation on a larger scale than at present is necessary, might it not be better to have a commissioner in New York?" (1)

Mr. Fielding's opposition seems to have been a weighty factor in deterring Mr. King from forcing any action past a reluctant Cabinet. However, Mr. Fielding resigned from the Ministry on September 4, 1925 leaving the way clear.

(1925)

By 1925 the sleeping question was stirring again, doubtless stimulated by the action of the Irish Government. The departmental files show that the consideration of the question was being revived. (By this

(1) Copy of memorandum on file 603-19C, Part I.