

1924
~~1931~~

under Mr. Meighen's Government, and under the first Mackenzie King administration. In 1928 Mr. King appointed him Minister Plenipotentiary to France, and he thus became both representative of the government and of the Crown. (1)

When the Bennett regime came into office in 1930, Mr. Roy was left undisturbed at his post. Mr. Bennett declared:

Mr. Roy has remained in office since August 1930, notwithstanding the fact that I have believed that at times his physical condition was not such, because of his poor hearing, as would enable him to function as he should like. He has remained there because he has discharged difficult tasks with success. . . (2)

On May 26, 1938, Mr. Bennett said:

I am not unmindful of the service rendered by Mr. Roy. He was rather an extreme partisan, which is something that cannot be readily avoided at times; but Mr. Roy's contacts with the world in Paris have been of great value to the country. . . Had the course been followed, which the minister expected, namely, had he in 1930 been removed from office, or recalled - and it will be remembered that the Minister of Justice made some observations regarding that matter three years ago . . . I am quite sure that if conditions had been reversed in 1930 the minister to France and the minister to Japan would have been recalled, judging by what the Minister of Justice said in 1935. I took the other view. I believed, as I still do, that notwithstanding the known political views of those who held those offices, it was highly desirable, especially when we were just at the beginning of our new experience in appointing ministers, that we should endeavour to do the best we could. I am not unmindful of the censure I received from my own friends, and I sometimes wonder whether or not I was right in taking the view I did. Nevertheless, they remained and discharged their duties I think in the main satisfactorily, so far as I know. (3)

(1) ~~Ibid.~~ Mr. King: H. of C. Debates, May 26, 1938. III. pp.3260-1.

(2) Ibid. July 3, 1935, p.4201.

(3) Ibid. May 26, 1938. III. pp.3258, 3260.