

Commission, which is now *functus officio* save as respects the laying down of the boundary through the Great Lakes, with which duty it was especially charged by the treaty of April 11, 1908, and upon which it is still engaged.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

In the year 1879 certain members of the Canadian ministry then in England represented, in a confidential memorandum addressed to the secretary of state for the Colonies, the need which existed of providing the means of constant and confidential communication 'between Her Majesty's Government and Her local advisers in Canada in extension of the more formal relations subsisting through the correspondence of the Secretary of State for the Colonies with the Governor-General.' The memorandum went on to observe that

it appears to the Canadian Government eminently desirable to provide for the fullest and most frank interchange of views with Her Majesty's Government, and for the thorough appreciation of the policy of Canada on all points of general interest. Otherwise there appears to be danger of a feeling growing up of indifference, if not of actual antagonism and irritation upon both sides. The idea must be avoided that the connection of Canada with the British Empire is only temporary and unabiding, instead of being designed to strengthen and confirm the maintenance of British influence and power.

It is now being found in practice that there are constantly questions arising, connected with the administration of affairs in Canada, requiring discussions in a mode, and to an extent wholly impracticable by the ordinary channel of correspondence through the Governor-General; and periodical visits have to be made to London for this purpose by the important members of the Canadian Government, entailing serious inconvenience.

Her Majesty's government having returned a sympathetic answer, an act was passed in the following session of the Canadian parliament, constituting the office of high commissioner for Canada in the United Kingdom. His duties were thus defined: