

tions of his Ministers, he is constitutionally entitled to criticize the conduct of the executive, and for this purpose the resolutions of the Cabinet ought to be communicated to him, together with the fullest information on all important matters in time to enable him to become fully acquainted with their nature before coming to a decision. Moreover, the King is entitled to be informed of all important executive or legislative measures which have so far ripened towards action as to have come before the Cabinet for discussion.

It is, I imagine, not likely that the King, while in Canada, on a visit of such short duration as that contemplated, will desire to take part in the affairs of government to the same extent as he would in relation to the Government of the United Kingdom. I think the matter is essentially one in which every effort should be made, consistently with adherence to the principle of ministerial responsibility, to conform to his wishes. I assume, of course, that His Majesty will perform only such formal acts of state in relation to the Government of Canada as he may be advised by the Prime Minister to perform. Subject to the foregoing, I think the relationship of the Prime Minister to His Excellency the Governor General, while the Sovereign is in Canada, will continue as at present.

Yours sincerely,

ERNEST LAPOINTE

27.

Le Premier ministre au secrétaire particulier du Roi
Prime Minister to Private Secretary to the King

Ottawa, March 15, 1939

Dear Major Hardinge,

His Majesty's Government in Canada have had under consideration certain legal aspects of the Royal visit. To clarify the situation, and in order to be in a position to advise His Excellency the Governor General with regard to the performance of his functions during His Majesty's presence in Canada, I submitted three questions to the Minister of Justice for his opinion.

These questions related to the constitutional position during His Majesty's presence in Canada, and, particularly, to the constitutional position of the King with respect to all matters of State, to the constitutional position of the Governor General, and to the relationship of the Prime Minister of Canada to His Majesty and to the Governor General during the Royal Visit.

I am enclosing copies of my letter, and of the opinion of the Minister of Justice in answer thereto, for the information of His Majesty the King.

Yours sincerely,

W. L. MACKENZIE KING