

for a number of years after 1946, during the King regime, when non-political "career" officers were appointed as High Commissioner (e.g. N.A. Robertson 1946-49, L.D. Wilgress 1949-52, and Robertson again 1952-57). It was thought during that decade that a new tradition was being established and that the High Commissionership in London - as to most of the other Commonwealth capitals - was to be regarded as a diplomatic appointment for "career" diplomats. But this proved to be the exception rather than the rule.

The Paris Appointment

The Hon. Philippe Roy, Commissioner-General of Canada in France from 1911 and Canadian Minister from 1928, fared somewhat better, and enjoyed such permanence of office that he served in the Paris post for twenty-seven years, under various governments, and voluntarily retired only when seventy years of age and incapacitated by deafness and poor health. He delayed his retirement until he was conceded a parliamentary grant of a \$5000 ~~axyear~~ annuity for the rest of his life.

Mr. Roy was appointed to Paris by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in May, 1911. A change of government took place in Canada in September of that year, when Sir Robert Borden took office, but Mr. Roy was continued in his position.^x He remained under the Unionist Government,

* Mr. King: "My recollection is that after the Conservative government was formed in 1911, the late Sir George Foster went to France on an important mission. Sir George had been strongly prejudiced against Mr. Roy, possibly because he believed there must necessarily be partisanship inasmuch as Mr. Roy was an appointee of a Liberal government, but Sir George came back from Paris feeling very strongly the other way. He had found Mr. Roy's services invaluable, and also that Mr. Roy himself held the confidence of the French ministers to a remarkable degree. I believe that it was in large part Sir George's influence which was responsible for Mr. Roy's continuance in office." (Ibid, p.3260).