

that this officer should not only reside there permanently but should have a *quasi-diplomatic* position; that, it was of great consequence that he should not be an ordinary official such as those who had previously been charged with the affairs of the country, but he should be one holding a very high position—that he should be a dignified and influential officer, one whose rank should be next to that of a Foreign Ambassador. The hon. gentleman told us that it was very important that Canada should secure a fair share of the immigration from the United Kingdom, and that however active, however industrious, those who had previously been the Agents of Canada in Great Britain, they were not able to accomplish, on behalf of the country what might be accomplished by an officer having a higher position. The hon. gentleman declared that Canada had become an auxiliary kingdom, that it was not in the position of an ordinary colony, and for this reason it was of consequence that the representative or agent of the country at the capital of the Empire should be one occupying a high and influential position in the country. The hon. gentleman said:

"It can be well understood that the statements of a mere Agent, with a limited and local jurisdiction, to a certain extent not known or recognized as holding an office for the purpose of expediting and assisting in giving information to intending emigrants—it is found that he is placed at a disadvantage when he is confronted by the active, ceaseless, and energetic exertions of the various agents of the railway companies in the United States, whose prosperity and future depend altogether in the seduction of the emigrants from Europe—and especially from the United Kingdom—to the United States, and diverting them from Canada. It is believed that by having an officer holding a *quasi-diplomatic* position, in fact holding a diplomatic position, so far as is consistent with our position of a dependency of the Empire, his statements, and actions, and prestige, will be generally accepted by the public, and will assist in giving a direction to emigration from the United Kingdom, and from Europe generally."

The hon. gentleman informed us that this officer was to occupy a position of general utility. He was to be the Agent of the Finance Minister; he was to assist in the negotiation of loans, and in dealing with the financial affairs of the Dominion. The Finance Minister informed the House at that time that such an officer might more than save his salary in negotiating the loans and transaction of the financial business of the country. On that occasion, the Finance Minister said:

"I have received very great assistance from them—"

That is to say, from our old agents—

"especially when floating the last loan. They were the Agents for Canada for many years before the Union. Messrs. Baring Bros. were also the Agents of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick before the Union, and the natural feeling will be, if they will undertake any duty of that kind on as favourable terms as any other party similarly situated, that it would be highly desirable that they should have it. In the negotiation of the loan of \$10,000,000, our representative there will, I trust, be able to save something like \$50,000. I am satisfied that, by the appointment of this official, as now proposed, the sum that will be expended in the maintenance of that official, and the assistance it may be necessary to give him in order to perform the work, will be a small expenditure compared with the large saving that may result from it in a financial point of view, apart from the commercial, political and other considerations to which the hon. leader of the Government has referred."

The hon. leader of the Government also informed the House that it was of very great consequence that this official should be always on the spot; and that our interests had grown to such an extent, and were so varied and important, that it would never do that the country should longer remain without a permanent representative in London. It is true, Sir, he informed us that it might occasionally be necessary that this officer should go to Paris or Madrid, or some other capital on the continent, for the purpose of carrying on negotiations on behalf of Canada; that he might occasionally require to return to Canada in order to become more thoroughly conversant with the views of the Administration for the time being; but that these visits to the continent and Canada were to be of a most temporary character; and it was of the utmost consequence that his residence

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should be in London, and that he should always be ready to act on behalf of the country. Then, Sir, we also learn from the observations which were then made by the First Minister and by the Minister of Finance, that this officer was also to promote immigration and to be subordinate to the Minister of Agriculture. It is also stated in the Act that was passed on that occasion that this officer is to be responsible on the subject of immigration and other cognate matters, to the Minister of Agriculture, and that he is from time to time to report to him. It is certain that the High Commissioner has regarded himself as the subordinate of the Minister of Agriculture, and that he has acted as such. Now, Sir, I am not going to discuss the utility of this office. Parliament has already decided that such an officer is necessary, as well as, in a large degree, what his duties are. It has also decided that he shall be a permanent resident in England, and the representative of Canada there, as well as a subordinate, in some respects, of the Department of Finance, and in other respects of the Department of Agriculture. Whether it was necessary that we should have such a representative or not, is not now the question. We must assume that such an officer is necessary, so long as this law remains on the Statute Book, and so long as the policy of Parliament, upon this particular subject, is unchanged. The First Minister, at the time he provided for the appointment of this officer, declared that he should be appointed at a salary of not less, although the Act says not more, than \$10,000 a year; that he had consulted many parties in reference to the subject, and the general opinion was that the sum of \$10,000 was too small; but that he would begin economically with that amount, and if it was found inadequate, there would be no difficulty in Parliament increasing it. The First Minister, on that occasion, also declared that it was necessary that this officer should be one of very high rank, in order to secure that influence which was necessary to enable him to efficiently serve the country. The hon. gentleman is now, and has been for several months, in this country, having left those duties, which the First Minister said could only be efficiently discharged by an officer of high rank, to be discharged by his Private Secretary or Clerk. We know, Sir, that this is the season of the year when the great political lights of the Empire are assembled in London, when the hon. gentleman would be brought most intimately in contact with the leading statesmen of the Empire; yet, now he is away from there, while in the season of the year when London is deserted, and when the hon. gentleman would be required to put on his shooting coat and go to the Highlands in order to find any English statesmen, he will be domiciled in London. In other words, when he can be most useful as High Commissioner in London, he is here, and when he can be of little service, he proposes to be on the other side of the Atlantic. Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman's appointment as High Commissioner, while still holding the position of Minister of Railways, renders it impossible for him to carry out that policy which the First Minister announced, and which is delineated in the Act creating the office. The position he occupies as Minister of Railways is also incompatible with his position as High Commissioner. How is it possible that the Minister of Railways, the head of an important Department, can act properly as the subordinate of another Minister of the Crown. The Department of which the hon. gentleman is the official head, is a very important one. It has been especially important during the period that he has held it, that is, during the past five years. We have been carrying on extensive railway enterprises in this country under the charge and direction of the Government; upon these enterprises the Government has a policy involving a large expenditure of money; and if there is any office connected with the Government to which it is necessary that a Minister of