

status of 'His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner' with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

"4. The envoy sent by a Dominion to such capital shall be given the status of 'His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner for Canada', 'His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner for Australia', or as the case may be, with the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary."

Paragraph 4 of the original draft was retained as an alternative to the new paragraph and altered to read :

"4. The envoy sent by any Dominion to such capital shall be given the status of 'His Britannic Majesty's Joint (or Associate) High Commissioner' with the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary." ⁽³⁾

Christie Letter

On the same day Christie replied to Percy's letter in the following terms :

"My dear Eustace,

Many thanks for your letter.

"I fear that wires have got crossed, or else the subject has become explosive in itself. I have not suggested that a Dominion envoy should be able to pose as a representative of the British Commonwealth. In its essentials my memorandum seems precise enough on that. In paragraph (5) it was proposed that 'A Dominion envoy shall be responsible to, and shall communicate directly with, the Dominion Government by which he is appointed'. Such a person could scarcely get very far in an attempt to drag in by himself the Government (whatever it is) of the British Commonwealth. The question of the label has some importance, but I certainly had no far reaching design in trying out the word 'Joint'. I rather envisaged the fellow as becoming commonly known as the 'Canadian Minister' and acting and being treated accordingly. Besides that, I thought, and still think, it would be well if possible to have some word or formula that would indicate to the world the notion of co-operation. Perhaps the word 'Joint' has some camouflage in it, but it has less, I am sure, than 'Assistant'. It is certainly more accurate. An envoy responsible only to the Government of Canada cannot accurately be described as an assistant to the envoy appointed by another Government. Any real difference between them would have to be settled between their principals. I think also that some misunderstanding has arisen because the name of the Dominion was only implicit in the formula. It may be difficult to combine the name of the Dominion with any such qualifying word as we have been discussing and it is probably most accurate all around to use the formula 'H.B.M. High Commissioner for Canada, with the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary'. The words 'H.B.M.' will themselves indicate the point as to co-operation. I quite agree there is no good in confusing an already confused situation. But I don't think we shall confuse it more by trying to agree on a way that will rightly and fairly recognize a real development

(3) The third and final draft was drawn up on February 25, 1919. It is to be published in *Documents on Canadian External Relations*, Volume III.