

except for Christie, the Department of External Affairs, as such, - with only two senior officers left in Ottawa - played no dynamic part. The special delegations consisted of Cabinet Ministers, assisted by Secretaries or Advisers of their own Departments. These delegates were special envoys despatched on "special mission", or attached to the mission; they came and went as the need arose. They were chosen by Borden and perhaps some of his Cabinet consultants. It does not appear that the Department, as such, interposed its views or recommendations. It was, at that time, an executive bureau, but not a policy-guiding agency.

By Order-in-Council of March, 1921, as already mentioned, the Office of the High Commissioner in London was placed under the Department of External Affairs, and was recognized more fully as a diplomatic agency in the United Kingdom. By degrees the role, and finally the formal status, of the High Commissioner of the Dominion was assimilated to that of Ambassador of foreign states accredited to the Court of St. James. He became, also, a few years after the Imperial Conference recommendations of 1921, a substitute channel of correspondence between the Canadian and British Governments, in addition to the Governor General, and in 1927 in place of him; and this arrangement was fortified by the appointment in 1928 of a corresponding United Kingdom High Commissioner to Ottawa.

Sir George Perley, having been Resident Cabinet Minister in London and Acting High Commissioner from 1914 to 1917, and High Commissioner from 1917 to 1922, was