

United Kingdom High Commissioner

The appointment of Sir William Clark as High Commissioner for the United Kingdom to Ottawa was welcomed as a recognition of Canada's status as an equal partner in the Commonwealth, meriting a quasi-diplomatic representative accredited to it, of more ambassadorial status than Consuls General of other countries. It was a logical outcome of the decision at the Imperial Conference of 1926 to create a substitute for the role of the Governor General as the channel of communication between the Dominions Office of the United Kingdom Government and the Canadian Government. As the Governor General ceased to be more than a representative of the Crown, the appointment of a British Government representative in Ottawa became a necessity.

At the Imperial Conference of 1926, the following passages were included in the report of Proceedings:

A special aspect of the question of consultation which we considered was that concerning the representation of Great Britain in the Dominions. By reason of his constitutional position, as explained in Section IV(b) of this Report, the Governor General is no longer the representative of His Majesty's Government in Great Britain. There is one therefore in the Dominion capitals in a position to represent with authority the views of His Majesty's Government in Great Britain.

We summed up our conclusions in the following Resolution which is submitted for the consideration of the Conference:-

The Governments represented at the Imperial Conference are impressed with the desirability of developing a system of personal contact, both in London and