

Recall Without Change of Government

Unrelated to the question of precedents on a change of administration in Canada, but somewhat related in connection with the government's efforts to retire a permanent Head of Mission from his post at another time, was the interesting case of Mr. Philippe Roy, Minister to France, in 1935 and in 1938. Mr. Bennett apparently was under the impression in 1935 that Mr. Roy was in failing health or incapacitated by deafness and at the age of 67 should be retired. Mr. Roy was under the impression that this suggestion was made either on political grounds or in order to replace him by a patronage appointment. Both, in fact, were wrong. Mr. Roy declined to resign; and Mr. Bennett withdrew his suggestion that Mr. Roy should resign. The controversy, based on mutual misunderstanding, was the subject both of acrimonious correspondence and of debate in Parliament.

The General Election, (which in the event unseated the Bennett Administration), was due to take place on October 14, 1935. It seems evident that the Prime Minister wished to replace Mr. Roy in Paris before that date, either to install a candidate of his own, or because he believed Mr. Roy was no longer capable of continuing his increasing tasks. It is not clear whether Mr. Bennett had a report, mistaken or not, that Mr. Roy wished to retire - on condition that he be accorded some adequate pension, as he had