

implementing the innovation first suggested in 1917 and better formulated in 1920.

Fundamentally Mr. King, holding the premiership from 1921, with one slight interruption, was a leader never to be hurried; a politician who weighed public opinion or opposition forces; and who tried so far as possible to escape political criticism. He was still to some extent a respecter of the old Imperial traditions and Constitution, and did not wish to move drastically or rebelliously against those traditions, either in his relations with London, or among his Imperial-minded opponents at home. His procrastination may be basically put down to political strategy or tactics.

As events turned out, the Department was not inflicted with responsibility for a diplomatic Mission in Washington, other than Mr. Mahoney's small office, until 1927.

Representation in London

The history of the Office of the High Commissioner for Canada in the United Kingdom has been fully told by Dr. Skilling and in the personal biographies, memoirs and correspondence of the first incumbents. Over the course of the years, and especially as a result of the Colonial Conference of 1907 and the