

within the commonwealth we had left out any one of the dominions. The reasons, however, for appointing the high commissioner to the Irish Free State were the same as those which prompted us to appoint high commissioners to other parts of the commonwealth, namely, to have some one at the capital of each who would be in touch with members of the government and who would be in a position to bring to the government's attention matters of Canadian concern, and to inform the government in Canada of matters of interest occurring in the country to which the high commissioner may have been sent, also to look after the interests of Canada and Canadians generally. . . . Through the reports we have received from our high commissioner and his secretary, we have been in a position to assess the situation in Ireland itself in a manner we would not have found possible had we not had the inside information given us."(1)

Mr. John Hall Kelly was the first Canadian High Commissioner to Ireland, - the name adopted in 1937 in place of the Irish Free State.* He arrived in Dublin on March 8, 1940, and commenced his duties from that date. On March 9 he was received by the Prime Minister, Mr. Eamon de Valera and by the President, Dr. Douglas Hyde. Shortly afterwards permanent offices were established at 92 Merrion Square, near the Dail and Government Offices.

Mr. Kelly, of Irish descent, was born at St. Godfrey, Bonaventure, Quebec, on September 1, 1879, and was educated at St. Joseph's College, Westmorland, N.B.,

(1) H. of C. Debates, February 25, 1941. p.1014.

* The "Republic of Ireland" was proclaimed in 1948, and took effect on April 18, 1949.