

"GIVEN under the GREAT SEAL of our PROVINCE of NEW BRUNSWICK:  
WITNESS Our trusty and well-beloved THE HONORABLE JOHN JAMES FRASER, Lieutenant Governor of our said Province, at FREDERICTON, the EIGHTEENTH day of FEBRUARY, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety Six and in the Fifty Ninth year of our Reign.

"BY COMMAND OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

(Signed) "JAMES MITCHELL."\*

The superior title given to Canada's representative is due to the fact that Canada is a federation of colonies; therefore, the official head in the United Kingdom has wider interests to promote than has the Agent-General of a single Colony. When the Australian Colonies have been federated, there will probably be a High Commissioner for Australasia; and when our African possessions have undergone similar development there will probably be a High Commissioner for British Africa. Meanwhile the office of the High Commissioner and the offices of the Agents-General, allowance being made for differences in the magnitude of the countries they severally represent, are run on much the same lines and have each the same aim—the development of the resources and trade of that part of the empire each is connected with. These offices consequently provide pretty much the same facilities; they are even for the most part in the same locality, Victoria Street, Westminster.

As to the facilities, a member of the Press, or the law, or a man of business, or indeed any one, wishing to have any point cleared up regarding Canada, say, would go to the High Commissioner's Office, where unless he could be answered over the counter, so to speak, he would have the privilege of consulting the excellent reference library kept in the office. Then when colonists come here on a visit, they usually make for the office of their own colony. There they see their leading newspapers which are kept on file and have their letters received and forwarded to them wherever they may be. If a Colonist wishes to go to the House of Commons or to see a procession or anything requiring a pass, he goes to his Agent-General and gets what he wants through him.

These are rather of the nature of incidental duties—the main duty of an Agent-General being to act for the different Government departments of his own Colony. He is, therefore, called *Agent-General*—Agent to Government departments *generally*. Whatever any Government department wants done, he will do—buy or sell or give away, engage a policeman, or a schoolmaster, or a railway booking clerk or general-manager, or a commanding officer for Colonial forces, borrow money, pay pensions, and so forth.

As to the work of his office, the High Commissioner says:—"Apart from the heavy correspondence with the departments in Ottawa and those in London, and on emigration and other matters, the actual number of letters received relating to trade and commerce numbered last year, 1,231. Several letters have frequently to be written about one inquiry, and personal investigation is also frequently necessary. Besides the correspondence, the number of callers during the year numbered 12,573. Of these 1,680 were Canadians who registered; and the balance, deducting a proportion for duplicate calls on the part of Canadian visitors, represent inquiries for information on emigration, on trade and commerce, and on general matters, and it is safe to say that at least one half the number related to questions of trade. Our inquiries have not only come from

\* The signatories to this commission, Jno. Jas. Fraser and James Mitchell, are respectively the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province and the Provincial Secretary.