

Then came the success of my right hon. friend opposite, and with the retirement of Sir George Perley, Mr. P.C. Larkin was appointed high commissioner. . . I do not think that he would have looked upon the office as a political one. He did indicate, however, that had the party with which I was associated been successful in 1925 or 1926 he would have resigned. Whether his resignation would have been accepted or not is, of course, a matter ^{with} which the government of that day would have had to deal.

Mr. Larkin died, and the office fell vacant. Mr. Pacaud, as acting commissioner, has discharged the duties of the office, one of very considerable importance, just as he would normally have discharged them had he been merely secretary. He was appointed acting high commissioner and was given a small additional compensation. I may say that he did not receive emoluments and fees that were paid the commissioner, although he discharged the duties.

Then, the office having been vacant from 1929 until July, 1930, Mr. Massey, who was then Minister at Washington, was appointed to the post. It well may be that had the post been started on the basis which my right hon. friend mentions* it could have been maintained as a diplomatic position. . .

Will my hon. friend say that if he were in office tomorrow he would not expect the present high commissioner Mr. Ferguson to tender him his resignation? . . . (1)

To this direct and challenging question,

Mr. King replied:

If the Hon. Howard Ferguson, during four years of office in the United States as the representative of Canada had discharged his duties in the highly acceptable manner that Mr. Massey did, had he gained the esteem and regard of the Canadian people and of the British people to the degree to which Mr. Massey gained it at the time, I should certainly, had he been

* Mr. King pointed out that the United Kingdom High Commissioner to Canada, Sir William Clarke, was a member of the diplomatic service, appointed to Canada by the Baldwin (Conservative) Government and continuing in office under a subsequent (Labour) British Government. (Ibid. p. 1649).

(1) Ibid. p. 1660.