

no government should be expected necessarily to retain the appointee of a previous administration, and that there should at least be an opportunity to a new administration of making an appointment of some one who would be persona grata to itself. That I believe was a perfectly sound point of view.

Mr. Bennett interposed: "That was limited to political appointments, and did not apply to diplomatic appointments."

Mr. King continued:

May I say that what my hon. friend is contending for may be perfectly sound where diplomatic appointments are made under Civil Service requirements and in accordance with Civil Service rules. But I believe the circumstances are entirely different where an appointment is being made to the diplomatic service, of any person who has not up to the time of such appointment been in the diplomatic service, and where such appointment is not in the nature of a promotion within that service.

Mr. Lapointe, the former Minister of Justice, contributed his views:

I do not like to enter into a controversy with my right hon. friend as to the status of the ministers representing Canada in foreign countries. He states that those who are diplomatic agents are in a different position from the high commissioner, and seems to suggest that it is not necessary that they should represent their government to the same extent as the high commissioner. Well, the ministers, like the ambassadors, are appointed by a commission under the great seal. They are not ordinary public servants. They are envoys, they are plenipotentaries, sent to represent this country in a foreign country, and are subject to recall at any time. . . My right hon. friend might have done it. They are ambassadors, they are plenipotentaries, and the country that sends them surely can recall them at any time. Their country is forced to recall them and to issue what is called letters of recall when the country to which they are accredited desires that they be recalled.

Mr. Bennett: That is very seldom done. There has been only one case on the American continent.