

Agents continued to be attached to the Department of Agriculture, until the emigration work was transferred to the Department of the Interior in 1892, and the salaries and contingencies of these officers are still paid by the latter Department. The "permanent" Agents are stationed at Liverpool, Bristol and Glasgow. There are "special" or temporary agents at Birmingham, Dundee and Inverness. The former devote a great deal of attention to the promotion of trade, in addition to their work in regard to emigration. The offices are also the rendezvous of visiting Canadians in their particular localities; and the Agents are able to render services to Canadians who may be visiting the United Kingdom, either for business or for pleasure.

As already pointed out, the duties of the High Commissioner are generally defined by Act of Parliament. They are very comprehensive and include the supervision of the interests of Canada, in the United Kingdom, and incidentally, also, on the Continent. His first duty on arrival is to report himself to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to whom he is accredited, and by whom he is subsequently presented to Her Majesty the Queen, as the representative of the Dominion of Canada. It seems to be popularly supposed that the High Commissioner is not very hard worked, but there is more fiction than truth about the supposition. He is not only the representative of Canada, and of the Canadian Government collectively, but acts as the commercial agent of the various Departments of which the Government is composed. He is the intermediary in connection with the many subjects that are continually under discussion between Her Majesty's Governments in Canada and in the United Kingdom. Not only are frequent interviews with the Secretary of State and the heads of other Departments of the Imperial Government necessary, but the correspondence with Downing Street and with Ottawa is voluminous and continuous. On several occasions he has negotiated both temporary and ordinary loans when they became necessary either to meet current

expenditure, or to replace borrowings that became due. The High Commissioner is the Trustee for the sinking fund of the various Guaranteed Loans. He arranges the preparation and forwarding of all coinage; and the deposits in London of the Insurance Companies doing business in Canada are placed in his name, and that of the Manager of the Bank of Montreal. In addition, the stores required by the Militia Department and the North-West Mounted Police from the War Office are arranged through the office. The same remark applies to the shipment of all rails that may be purchased, and to the purchase and shipment of supplies for other Departments; and the accounts for all these and other services have to be paid and statements and vouchers rendered to the Departments concerned. He frequently attends, as the Canadian representative, Congresses and Conferences, international and otherwise, both in England and on the Continent; and in connection with the negotiations with Spain, and the Treaty with France, relating to Canadian Trade, he was associated as a Joint Plenipotentiary with Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Paris and Madrid. There is no definitive treaty with Spain, but, through the exertions of the High Commissioner, Canada enjoys with the other Colonies, most-favored-nation treatment in the Spanish Peninsula and in the Colonies.

The High Commissioner supervises a large correspondence on general matters relating to the Dominion, and to its trade and commerce. The subjects referred to are infinite in variety, and require an encyclopædic knowledge of Canada to answer them. As already stated, the emigration agencies and their work, both in the United Kingdom and on the Continent, are under the supervision of the High Commissioner, and in the London office itself there is a considerable correspondence relating to emigration, the midland, eastern and southern parts of England being worked for such purposes from the Metropolis. A large number of letters are also annually received from all parts of Great Britain and from the Continent, as many persons seem to show a preference for