

Consideration by Mr. King and the Cabinet of Mr. Massey's selection as First Minister to Washington had been given before the middle of 1926, but how early is not clear. On June 11, 1926, Mr. Massey wrote confidentially to Dr. Skelton saying that he had been in communication with the Prime Minister. "The Prime Minister feels that the announcement of the actual appointment should be made after prorogation of Parliament, and I entirely agree with him in this."

From then on the ball rolled faster. After June, Mr. Massey was discussing details of his prospective appointment, title, salary, and staff, and in November, 1926, Mr. King obtained British and United States consent, and authorized a public announcement of the appointment of Mr. Massey. (Meanwhile there was the constitutional contretemps; the displaced King Administration; Mr. Meighen's regime of three months without a legal Cabinet; and an acrimonious election which brought Mr. King back into power.)

The long gap of six years between 1920, when Canadian representation at Washington was agreed in principle, and 1926 when the first Minister was appointed, is repeatedly held to be mysterious or unexplained, and the reasons for delay to be obscure. There may have been personal considerations and factors in the minds of Borden, Meighen and King which have not - and probably cannot be - elucidated. But the above review of almost each year's deterrent problems may suffice to explain the adventitious causes of delay in