

I might say that the formal approval of His Majesty the King is necessary before a step of the kind is taken. That approval has been obtained, and the governments of the Argentine and Brazil have been informed by the foreign minister of the United Kingdom through the British ambassadors to those countries, that it is the intention of our government to make the appointments in due course. I should say that both countries indicated to the government some time ago that they would like to be in a position to send ministers to Canada. Each of these governments asked whether we would be prepared not only to receive their ministers but to reciprocate in the matter of making appointments to their respective countries. The fact with regard to Argentina is the line it has been possible to give them a definite answer on that point.

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF MINISTERS TO CANADA  
I have just been asked by the hon. member for the ...  
to be made in mind. It may be that he refers to the ...  
commissioners being able to perform the duties that ministers might per-

form; I notice there has been some comment in the press to that effect. I must, however, this would not comment itself to say that I do not think any country has a free trade commissioner service that is not the work that is being done by our trade commissioners in their four American republics is satisfactory in every particular, but it is not the representatives of the Department of Trade and Commerce as such have not immediate access to foreign governments. In many countries it may be that the minister may be appointed by a representative of another country, but here we have ministers in charge of the trade are being largely controlled by governments themselves, by means of other provisions and restrictions of various kinds, so that it is becoming imperative to have someone with the authority of a minister to see the countries that are necessary with governments on these matters. I need only add that the importance of the South American countries, particularly political and economic point of view, is obvious, and the government feels that it would be in the national interest that we should have this representation at an early date.

2. Mr. Col. George P. Vanier, Canadian Minister to France, has returned to Canada on leave of absence. Colonel Vanier arrived in Canada early in October. The gentleman who is now in charge of the affairs of the Canadian Mission in Belgium and the Netherlands is Mr. Jean Desy, Canadian Minister to Belgium and the Netherlands. Mr. Desy has returned to Canada on leave, and Mr. Paul Renaud, of the Canadian Legation in Brussels, arrived in Canada in the first week of November.