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letter of recall as Minister to the United States. Such letter of recall is actually dated the 5th of August last [signed on the 7th]. (1)

Thus the London post was vacant except for an Acting High Commissioner, Mr. Pacaud. Mr. Bennett appointed Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Premier of Ontario.* From what Mr. Bennett later said, he clearly considered the High Commissioner appointment a strictly "political" one, and expected that, on any new change of government, Mr. Ferguson would either promptly resign or, if not, be replaced by the new Administration.

Mr. Bennett illustrated his doctrine as regards the High Commissionership by reference to certain examples:

When Lord Strathcona vacated the office [retiring because of age], the Rt. Hon. Sir George Perley occupied it, and during a portion of that time, he was a member of Sir Robert Borden's government. There are those who believe that it is in the interests of this country and of Great Britain as well that the incumbent of that office should be a member of the government of the day in this country. I know that Sir George Perley entertained that opinion and still does, and there are many that share the view. It will be recalled that when Sir George Perley surrendered the office he offered his resignation to my right hon. friend [Mr. King] and in due course retired. I do not say that, had he desired to remain, the right hon. gentleman might not have permitted him to do so; but I am inclined to say that he would not. It would not have been his view at that time that the High Commissioner in London should be a former member of a Conservative administration and, indeed, I have always felt - there is nothing new about this - that he would have been entirely right in viewing the situation in that light.

(1) Ibid. February 10, 1936, I. p.67.

(*) Mr. Ferguson was appointed by order-in-council on November 28th; he was sworn into office on December 18, 1930.