

by correspondence between principals.*

"Nowhere more than in intra-imperial and international relations is it true that 'the letter killeth but the spirit maketh whole'. To see from my office window on the adjoining side of Parliament Square a building which I know to be that of the representative of the

* It is interesting to note the somewhat contrary opinion of Mr. R.B. Bennett, leader of the Opposition in commenting on the Prime Minister's announcement:

He spoke of Sir William Clark as the British High Commissioner in this country, and said that his appointment might facilitate the transaction of business between this country and Great Britain. It must not be forgotten that whatever difficulties there may be with regard to notes and despatches passing between the government of the motherland and the government of Canada, in the ultimate analysis, either by cable or by written communication, the High Commissioner of Great Britain must send his messages to the government which accredits him. And so it has always been. The written word sometimes is much more reliable and avoids misunderstandings to which conversations sometimes give rise. I recall reading not long since an account of what took place in 1891 at Washington, when a misunderstanding arose between Mr. Blaine and two of His Majesty's commissioners from Canada as to what had been said, and it brought about considerable difficulty. Conversations in diplomacy have caused difficulties, and any member of this House who has read what transpired in connection with the Great War will realize the different views given by German statesmen and British statesmen as to certain conversations that had taken place, and volumes have been written about such misunderstandings. So recourse is had to despatches, to written communications, as the ultimate authority upon which nations rely to govern and guide their policies. While the introduction to Canada of a British High Commissioner may serve a useful purpose for parole communications, yet in the end written communications must govern. (H. of C. Debates, May 28, 1928, Vol.3, pp.3483-4).