

the Imperial Conferences and Imperial War Conferences and War Cabinets, Sir Robert Borden was frequently in London himself, and the High Commissioner's Office, increased by military responsibilities, obviously was at Borden's disposition.

It has been noted in a previous chapter how the Chief of Naval Staff in Ottawa complained to Sir Joseph Pope that Perley's despatches, being directed to the Prime Minister, failed to be duly forwarded to the Chief of Naval Staff (as they should have been and would have been had they been addressed to the Office of the Secretary of State for External Affairs), but Pope, while agreeing to the complaint, pleaded that he could not remedy the procedure or lapses of the Prime Minister.

An interesting commentary on the position of the Canadian High Commissioner in London as it was in 1920 was given in a Secret and Personal Memorandum dated May 11, 1920, by L.C. Christie on his return from a special investigational visit to London:

It was no part of my mission to London to examine or report on the High Commissioner's Office. But during my visit I had office room there, and this experience, together with other special opportunities I have had in recent years to observe the Office in action, has left certain impressions which I venture to set down simply as my personal view.

I believe there exists among Canadians who have had dealings with the High Commissioner's Office that it is inadequate and that somehow it ought to amount to more in London than it does.

. . . I venture to suggest the view that whatever inadequacy there is results very largely from conditions for which no High Commissioner is responsible and which no High Commissioner could correct; conditions which are partly inherent in the present status of the constitutional machinery