

he went personally to the Imperial Conference of that year (though it was not the Constitutional Conference which had been anticipated), the formula for independent Dominion diplomatic representation - separate from the British Foreign Office and British Embassy - had become clarified. It was discussed at the Imperial Conference. Miss M. McKenzie wrote a departmental memorandum on this stage in which she pointed out that at the Inter-Imperial Relations Committee of the Imperial Conference of 1926, Sir Austen Chamberlain said on November 11th that in off-the-record discussions about October 25, Mr. King had pointed out that the arrangement for a Canadian Minister at Washington to act for the British Ambassador would not be desirable, as it would involve the Canadian Minister having to act on instructions from the British Government, which would not be satisfactory. He further wished to discuss some phases of the Washington appointment with Sir Austen before formally requesting His Majesty to issue the necessary letters of credence. The precedent of the Irish arrangement was evidently in Mr. King's mind. (1)

The fact was, however, that Mr. King had by then made up his mind; had requested very much more explicit advice from Dr. Skelton; and had, indeed, sometime before June, 1926, selected his candidate as first Canadian Minister to Washington, Mr. Vincent Massey.

(1) File 603-19C. Part II.