

office of high commissioner should be held by someone in close political association with the government of the day, and I understood from what you said that you had in mind plans for this post as a result of which my own appointment could no longer stand. In these circumstances, I, of course, at once offered my resignation from the high commissionership which I now confirm - the resignation to take effect whenever you so desire.⁽¹⁾

In reply to Mr. Massey's letter, Mr. Bennett wrote on September 16, 1930:

During our interview on August 13th, I informed you that the present Conservative government considered it proper to adhere to the spirit of the statute creating the office of High Commissioner for Canada in Great Britain, and to affirm the policy which has developed under it, by appointing as its representative one who through conviction could fully subscribe to the declared views of the government relating to the conduct of the affairs of this country in Great Britain; and that any departure from that principle could only be justified on the ground of the more effective prosecution of the policies which this government believes should, in the interests of Canada, be maintained and developed.

As it was agreed that you could not personally approve these policies, it therefore followed, in my opinion at least, that they should more properly be entrusted to one who sincerely believed in their effectiveness.

For this reason it has been determined to accept your resignation as High Commissioner for Canada in Great Britain, and in doing so I would ask you to receive the expression of my belief in the high service you have for some years rendered Canada in a position, which from many points of view cannot, as you suggest, be regarded as in purpose essentially similar to the one you now resign.

I may observe that you are in error in assuming that you were transferred from the position of minister at Washington to that of High Commissioner at London. The order-in-council distinctly appointed you High Commissioner under the provisions of a Canadian statute, and is also the authority for directing that application should be made to His Majesty for your

(1) Ibid. pp.1647-8.