

*Supply—External Affairs*

the country. Mr. Justice Turgeon is suggested as a likely appointee to that post. He last discharged his judicial functions in Canada in November, 1935; he has not sat in the courts since. He has been engaged in political work—and I say political in the large, proper use of that word—and it is suggested that he is to be appointed to Paris or, if not, to Belgium. There you have a position which I regard as one of extreme gravity. I am not saying that I attach any credence to these reports, but this is in the minds of people who write me and say "It is your duty to direct attention to these matters." Sometimes one has to speak of these matters as a public duty when it is not the most pleasant thing in the world to do so.

Nevertheless, this foreign or external affairs service of ours is of very great importance; we are at the threshold of the work in all its activities and all its branches, and it does seem to me that we should try to follow, as far as may be possible, a general idea of a measure of permanency. I am quite sure that if conditions had been reversed in 1930 the minister to France and the minister to Japan both would have been recalled, judging by what the Minister of Justice said in 1935. I took the other view. I believed, as I still do, that notwithstanding the known political views of those who held those offices, it was highly desirable, especially when we were just at the beginning of our new experience in appointing ministers, that we should endeavour to do the best we could. I am not unmindful of the censure I received from my own friends, and I sometimes wonder whether or not I was right in taking the view I did. Nevertheless they remained and discharged their duties I think in the main satisfactorily, so far as I know. Certainly the difficult position in one of the countries could be met only by one with a considerable and extended experience there. In Paris I think the situation never was very onerous as far as hard work was concerned. We negotiated a trade treaty, which was largely the work of the commercial side of the legation as well as of the minister of France to Canada and our own people here. But the idea of permanency, the idea of promotion, the idea that men who enter the service in a junior capacity may one day find themselves occupying positions of great authority and importance, I think should be encouraged by every means possible.

I say that very frankly; I say it having endeavoured to practise it. I know how earnestly some of these younger men have striven

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

to do their work, looking and hoping for promotion. In the very nature of things promotion is naturally slow, because we have a very small service, but I could name—I shall not do it this afternoon—numbers of men who are now ministers of Great Britain, some of whom are ambassadors, who started in a very small way. It has not been unusual to go outside the service in that country, of course. There was the case, for instance, of Lord Bryce at Washington; the special mission of Lord Reading for a very few months and the case of Sir Auckland Geddes. These were exceptions that were made because of very exceptional circumstances, and I believe the service itself did not raise any objections. But the general theory of the British diplomatic service is that the man who enters as a junior may look forward to finding himself in the position of minister or ambassador; or sometimes, and not infrequently, they are called to the foreign office itself, where they undertake great responsibilities. My attention was directed, for instance, to the fact that the present minister from Great Britain to Japan went directly from the foreign office, while the minister he succeeded at Tokyo was transferred to Belgium because he had had exceptional opportunities to acquire knowledge of conditions in that part of the world when he was not an ambassador or minister. I think there is no branch of the public service in which there should be greater endeavour, and particularly as it is a new branch, at least to leave the idea in the minds of those entering the service as a career, that there is an opportunity of promotion which may lead them to occupy positions of importance. It should be understood that those positions are not reserved for those who have rendered services, politically or otherwise, but that they would be the meritorious right of those who have really rendered service in the department. Such promotion I believe will ensure a better service, and certainly a more contented one.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: With most, in fact practically all of what my right hon. friend has said I entirely agree. But when he speaks of Mr. Roy's services as having been of a partisan nature I am afraid we must part company.

Mr. BENNETT: I say, at the start.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend may have forgotten the fact that Mr. Roy was appointed at the beginning of 1909, and that Sir Robert Borden took office in 1911. Mr. Roy's services had already apparently been of such a character that Sir Robert felt it was desirable to continue him in a