

I realize the difficulty that a member of Parliament would have in filling this office under those conditions as it would be very hard for him to keep in touch with his constituents, which might endanger his reelection. Under ordinary normal conditions a man could go to Canada once or if necessary twice a year to keep in touch with matters at home, as there are certain parts of the season here when work is much less than usual. If this could not be done it could be arranged that a Senator should fill this office who was also a member of the Cabinet.

I am writing you in this way now because I think that, if you agree with my views, it would be well for you to amend the law at the present short session, so that you may be able to make an actual appointment here when you think best to do so.¹

When I left home I had no discussion as to who would be eventually appointed to this office after I returned and reported to you. I took it for granted it would depend somewhat upon the report I might make and also upon the general situation. As I wrote you I intended to leave for home on September 11th. but now my departure is indefinitely postponed unless you intend to relieve me. I do not know that I should care to remain here permanently and some of my matters at home were not left in exactly as good condition as I should like for any long absence, but I am willing to stay for a while and do the best I can if you would like me to do so. No one can tell how long the war will last. My own impression is that it cannot go on for very many months as I am told that it is costing altogether ten million pounds a day, but on the other hand Lord Kitchener tells me he expects it to last eighteen months or two years. It is, of course, absolutely imperative that some one should be here to represent us under the present trying circumstances, so that I have simply cancelled my passage until I know your wishes.

Please excuse this hurried letter and after you have given it your consideration I shall be glad to know what you decide to do.

GEORGE H. PERLEY

23. *Le secrétaire aux Colonies au Gouverneur général*

TELEGRAM

London, September 27, 1915

Formal request has been received from Perley with approval of Borden that he may be furnished as High Commissioner with copies of telegrams and despatches passing between you and Department and Government of Canada. In view of special position of Perley as Minister am acceding to request in his case. Arrangements will not extend to confidential communications between Governor General and Secretary of State for the Colonies.

BONAR LAW

¹ Le 5 septembre 1914, Borden répondit qu'il s'occuperait systématiquement de cette question «dès que la pression diminuerait», mais garda Perley comme Haut commissaire par intérim encore trois ans.