



HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE—LIBRARY.

After two or three years, Mr. Jenkins resigned the post, and was ultimately succeeded by the Hon. William Annand, who had been a member of the Nova Scotia Government, and at the time was the Agent-General for that Province in London. This state of things continued until 1880, when the position of High Commissioner for Canada was created, and the Dominion became represented at the heart of the Empire in a manner worthy of its dignity and importance.

The Act relating to the High Commissioner is the 43 Vic., Cap. 11; and the following clause will serve to indicate the views held by the Government of the day regarding the appointment:

"The High Commissioner shall—

- (1) Act as representative and resident agent of Canada in the United Kingdom, and in that capacity execute such powers and perform such duties as are, from time to time, conferred upon and assigned to him by the Governor-in-Council;
- (2) Take the charge, supervision and control of the immigration offices and agencies in the United Kingdom, under the Minister of Agriculture;
- (3) Carry out such instructions as he, from time to time, receives from the Governor-in-Council respecting the commercial, financial and general interests of Canada in the United Kingdom, and elsewhere."

In the early days, the Canadian Emigration Agent occupied a building in King Street, Westminster, still known as "Canada Buildings." Afterwards the offices were removed to another "Canada Buildings," in Queen Victoria Street, not far from the Mansion House, and the Bank of England. In 1880, however, the High Commissioner took over and re-organized the staff of the Agent-General's Office, and arranged for its removal to more convenient premises in Victoria Street, Westminster, in close proximity to the offices of the other colonies, and not far from the Houses of Parliament and the Government offices. There they have since remained, although it has been found necessary to increase the accommodation from time to time. It cannot be said that the present offices are as convenient in their accommodation and arrangements as might be desired, but they were the best that could be obtained at the time, and probably are as good as anything that could now be secured, unless a building was specially erected for the purpose.

The late Hon. Sir Alexander Galt, G. C. M. G., had the distinction of being the first High Commissioner for Canada. On his resignation, in 1883, the Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., was appointed to