

approach. Separate Dominion representation was clearly a crucial innovation, which had to be carefully consulted over with the Imperial authorities. The Irish precedent had aroused some misgivings in London, -especially, in that year, on the part of Lord Curzon. The Canadian signature of the Halibut Treaty had created some re-examination of constitutional status. There were still in the Canadian Parliament some of the old guard die-hards who placed their trust wholly in the traditional British Foreign Office diplomatic machinery. The conception of Commonwealth autonomy had not yet been crystallized, until the Imperial Conference of 1926. Nevertheless, by 1925 the movement was beginning to take shape departmentally.

In March, 1925, Senator N.A. Belcourt had been asked to draft the different documents constituting the procedure for the appointment of a Canadian Minister at Washington. These he submitted to Dr. Skelton, Counsellor of External Affairs, on March 17, 1925.⁽¹⁾ They were then discussed sometime in late April.

In July, 1925, the Prime Minister announced in Parliament that it was the intention of the Government to proceed with the appointment very shortly of a Canadian Minister at Washington. No decision had yet been reached as to the name of the candidate.

In 1926 Mr. King (despite his electoral difficulties) had crystallized his thinking. When

(1) Ibid.