

proffer of resignation, or of asking him to resign and replacing him by a Conservative patronage appointment. During the previous years, Mr. Bennett had made criticisms, partly of the Liberal Government's opening of a Legation and appointment of a Minister in Japan, and partly of Mr. Marler personally as Minister.

Mr. Marler, confronted with the fact of the change of government, debated whether, following American practice, he should voluntarily submit an open resignation to Mr. Bennett, i.e. place his post at the Conservative Prime Minister's disposition; or whether to take no action on his own part. He decided on the latter course. He argued to himself that, once having been appointed to a diplomatic post, he ceased to have any party complexion or connections; he was a representative of Canada, and not merely of the Liberal Administration or of the Prime Minister; his appointment was made in the name of the King, and therefore was above party. By virtue of his diplomatic position, he had become "neutral" in politics, and was a representative of the Crown in Canada. He saw no reason, therefore, why he should voluntarily resign under a new Conservative Administration. If he was to be removed from his diplomatic post, he felt, any onus of retirement, recall or dismissal should be on the Prime Minister, but not on himself. Moreover, by taking such a voluntary step, he would be setting up a serious precedent, on the United States plan, which might have a permanent effect on all future diplomatic appointments in the Canadian service, at times of governmental changes.