

I intimated that to Mr. Massey and I read to him the statute which enumerates the duties of the high commissioner. Apparently Mr. Massey felt that if that was my conception of the position and he not being, shall I say, a supporter of the policies of the administration, then he should resign. I did suggest that he would not be able to reflect the policies of this government in London in which I should like them to be expressed. Mr. Massey had left a diplomatic office to take a political office, and having done so he felt he could not properly interpret the views of the administration, and therefore he resigned. (1)

Mr. Bennett enlarged on this in a further declaration the same day:

I say that Mr. Massey was not asked for his resignation. He was asked this, however: 'Do you think in view of the fact which I mention you could possibly maintain the confidence of the government, or give it yours?' - and he resigned. (2)

On July 3, 1935, Mr. Bennett declared:

We did inform Mr. Massey that we thought he should retire. (3)

Mr. Massey the next day addressed a letter to the Prime Minister dated August 14th:

I appreciate your courtesy in arranging our conversation of yesterday in answer to my letter requesting an expression of your wishes concerning my appointment to the high commissionership in London.

I left the Legation at Washington and accepted a transfer to London on the understanding that the office of high commissioner was an integral part of our service abroad, differing of course in its procedure from our foreign diplomatic offices but akin to these in the qualifications of its personnel and in the relation of that personnel to the government which it serves. I now realize that our ideas regarding this are at variance. In our discussion on this subject you were good enough to make clear your view that the

(1) Bennett: H. of C. Debates, May 15, 1931. III, p.1647

(2) Ibid. May 15, 1931, p.1651.

(3) Ibid. July 3, 1935. IV. p.4204.