

would be better to have this office remain as it is so that the High Commissioner would be more or less permanent and would not be considered a strictly political appointment. He did not go into details as to his reasons for this opinion but I intended to have done so fully with him during the week end we spent at Nuneham two weeks ago, but unfortunately he was so occupied attending council meetings just before war was declared that he had to stay in London all the time. I do not think he has any strong feelings on the subject and he said they would be perfectly satisfied here with whatever Canada decided to do. I talked with Mr. Colmer and Mr. Griffith on the subject. The former is rather inclined to agree with Mr. Harcourt and has given me a memorandum on the subject. On the other hand Mr. Griffith is strongly of the opinion that this office should be filled by a Minister of the Crown. I had a long talk with Sir Charles Tupper about it and he is and always has been strongly in favor of giving this office as much power and authority as can be done and having a Cabinet Minister here for that purpose.

I have had a pretty good opportunity of testing the thing here this summer as I came over simply as a member of the Government and told everyone privately and in public that I was only here temporarily. I do not think it would make much difference in the eyes of the man on the street, but I feel quite certain that a High Commissioner who is also a member of the Canadian Government would carry more weight and more authority with the public men and the Government here than could possibly be the case if he were simply a government official. I know that some people might object to this as possibly making the office more partisan so that some of the Canadians of the other political faith would not feel so comfortable in coming to the office. This would have to be carefully guarded against and at least as much attention should be shown to visitors of the opposite political persuasion. Another reason suggested by some for not having a Minister here is that whoever occupies this office should be more or less permanent as it will of course take some time for anyone to understand London ways and conditions. It might be possible to make a compromise by arranging that this office should be filled by a Minister of the Crown who should be appointed for a definite term of three or five years, although of course I see a good deal of objection to this course as in the nature of things no Minister would care to stay on here should his Government be defeated at the polls. On the whole my opinion is that we should alter the present law and make this a Cabinet position with an adequate salary (I think you suggested \$25,000) so that we may give it a trial any way and see how it works out. The next few years are going to be full of problems connected with the Empire and its future relationship and the difficult question of cooperation between its component parts and I cannot but think it will help very much in the solution of these problems if Canada had a Minister in this office who would be in continual touch with the Government of Great Britain. This is particularly necessary at the present juncture and while this war continues so that there is a special reason for making the alteration now.