

a majority in the newly elected House of Commons the results of the elections appear clearly to indicate that he is not in such a position. I am not aware of any precedent in Great Britain or in Canada for recommending, before Parliament meets, that the leader of a party not commanding a clear majority in the House of Commons should be called upon to form a Government.

To summon Parliament and to allow the House of Commons to disclose its attitude upon division is the procedure warranted by constitutional precedent and by the present circumstances. To take any other course would be to fail to recognize the supreme right of the people to govern themselves in the manner which the constitution has provided, namely, expressing their will through their duly elected representatives in Parliament and in accordance with recognized parliamentary practice.

A. F. SLADEN

2.

Le Premier ministre au premier ministre de Grande-Bretagne
Prime Minister to British Prime Minister

Ottawa, February 10, 1926

My dear Prime Minister,

The recent visit of Lord and Lady Willingdon to Ottawa and mention in cabled Press despatches of Lord Willingdon's name as a possible successor as Governor-General of Canada to His Excellency Lord Byng, prompts me to write to ascertain the views of His Majesty's Government as to the method by which the choice of the next Governor-General of Canada should be made.

It has, I think, become pretty generally accepted that any appointment should have the cordial approval of both Governments and, should a difference of views arise, that regard should be had for the wishes of the Government of Canada. Both in the Old Land and in Canada there are some who hold the views that the appointment should be made by the British Government on the recommendation of the Canadian Government. This question is one which need not, I think, be raised at the present time, nor is it likely to be raised so long as there is agreement between the two Governments. I should like to do whatever lies in my power to assist in attaining this most desirable end.

If, in your opinion, it would be of assistance for me to ask you to let me have the names of persons whom His Majesty's Government would be prepared to consider for such an appointment, with a view to permitting an expression of opinion as to who of the number, everything considered, would likely prove to be the most acceptable, I should be glad to have you consider this letter as preferring such a request. If, however, any other course appears preferable to you, I should be glad to have a suggestion from yourself and will write you with frankness concerning it. The purpose of this letter is just to set the necessary machinery in motion in order that the appointment may be made in due course without inconvenience or embarrassment to any who may be concerned.