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in reply to a communication from the Agent-General of Nova Scotia, was that any province "for the purpose of dealings with His Majesty's Government, is, with the rest of the Dominions, represented only by the High Commissioner", and that the Colonial Secretary could not "accord any official recognition to any person as a separate representative of Nova Scotia".

Over the years various protests to this ruling were made by the Agents-General of various provinces, but without avail. The British Colonial Office went only as far as placing the names of the provincial Agents-General on the Colonial Office List, and in later years of according them consular privileges but not immunities.

The Dominion Government, like Lord Strathcona, opposed the extension of powers and privileges to the Agents-General. Sir Wilfrid Laurier opposed it. The Borden Government in 1914 and thereafter opposed it.

An alternative to separate provincial representation abroad was suggested in 1911 by the Federal Government. The proposal was that the provinces should each nominate two officials for appointment to the staff of the Canadian High Commissioner in London; they would be paid and might be accommodated by the Federal Government. This proposal was not taken up by the provinces, either because of the lack of sympathy between the Agents-General and the then High Commissioner, Lord Strathcona, or simply because the provinces preferred to maintain independently their own representatives.