

764
11

time, Sir Joseph Pope had retired and Dr. Skelton was the new Under-Secretary and adviser to Mr. King). It appears that the Prime Minister was beginning to turn his attention to the long outstanding and uncompleted question of Canadian diplomatic representation in Washington. Prospective candidates were not yet considered, although several names were put forward.⁽¹⁾ But the principles were re-examined and Dr. Skelton prepared a very detailed analysis of the whole problem,⁽²⁾ * which apparently was considered by Mr. King and several of his Cabinet colleagues. Discussions were also informally and confidentially carried on with the British authorities, including Sir Austen Chamberlain.

Debates on the proposal began to appear more frequently in the House of Commons and Senate. It is repeatedly said that Mr. King's reasons for procrastination are obscure or secret; but some of the above facts were contributory to his slowness of

(1) See file 603-19C, Part I.

(2) Ibid.

* In that Memorandum dated December, 1924, it was pointed out that the earlier 1920 agreement had provided that "in the absence of the Ambassador the Canadian Minister will take charge of the whole Embassy and of the representation of Imperial as well as Canadian interests". That notion had been dropped out of the agreement of 1924 concerning the appointment of an Irish Minister. Mr. King had never approved the earlier Borden formula. Dr. Skelton's memorandum proposed that "if any appointment is made under existing circumstances, the present Government contemplates that the proposed Canadian Minister will have charge of Canadian affairs only", and reference to his taking charge of the British Embassy was dropped. (Memorandum on file 603-19C, Part I).