

Skilling incorrectly mentions that Mr. Roy had originally been appointed by a Conservative Government. Mr. Mackenzie King, replying to Mr. Bennett's charge of Mr. Roy's partisanship, said:

When he speaks of Mr. Roy's services as having been of a partisan nature I am afraid we must part company. Mr. Roy was appointed at the beginning of 1909,* and Sir Robert Borden took office in 1911. Mr. Roy's services had already apparently been of such a character that Sir Robert felt it was desirable to continue him in a position which corresponded with that of high commissioner in London. Mr. Roy was continued throughout the period of the Great War, and after so long as Sir Robert continued in office. When Mr. Meighen succeeded Sir Robert as Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, he too, retained Mr. Roy in that position. . . . When the Liberal administration took office Mr. Roy was continued, and my right honourable friend retained his services when he took office. I believe Mr. Roy has endeavoured to serve all governments conscientiously and faithfully. I suggest the long record of a service of twenty-seven years under different governments and through most critical times distinguishes Mr. Roy as a faithful public servant. (1)

The Tokyo Appointment

Besides Mr. Roy, the only other Minister holding office at that time (1930) was Mr. Herbert Marler, who had been appointed by Mr. King and had taken up his duties in Tokyo the preceding year. Mr. Marler had formerly been active as a Liberal, had been a member of the Liberal Cabinet for a brief period, and had been elected as a Liberal member of Parliament before resigning to go to Japan. If the American precedent was to be followed, Mr. Bennett had the opportunity of either waiting for Mr. Marler's voluntary

* Mr. King (later): "I should have said 1911".

(1) H. of C. Debates, May 26, 1938. III. pp.3260-1