

Representation to League of Nations

With the creation of the League of Nations in 1920, Canada's independent participation resulted in a further step forward toward diplomatic autonomy. Canada obtained separate membership, and sent strong delegations to the early Assemblies in Geneva. In 1920 the delegation included Sir George Foster, Mr. C.J. Doherty, and Mr. N.W. Rowell, K.C., together with an advisory staff, including L.C. Christie from External Affairs. In 1921 the delegation included Mr. Doherty and the High Commissioner Sir George Ferley, and advisers. In 1922 it included Mr. Fielding, Mr. Ernest Lapointe, and Mr. P.C. Larkin, the new High Commissioner. As a result of these visits to Geneva, senior Canadian leaders rapidly acquired a knowledge of international affairs which had been so conspicuously lacking in the pre-war days when such esoteric matters were generally left to the more experienced British authorities.

This annual assembling of international statesmen and Canadian delegates began to take the aspect, in Canadian eyes, of a forum of foreign policy discussions which would be a substitute both of the war-time Imperial Conferences and Cabinets, and of separate permanent Canadian missions. Borden called it a "kindergarten" or school for the training of Canadian international experts; and one of its chief values was that of discussion and consultation on foreign affairs. As Prof. Soward remarked: "If anything, the yearly gatherings at Geneva have deepened the ties of friendship between Empire statesmen and