

were far from complacent about the status quo. It was due to their efforts that Canada's voice became more effective in the war discussions.

In the larger field of Empire relations, too, an increasing measure of consultation with the Canadian and other dominion governments was practised. So much was this the case that at the Imperial War Conference of 1917, Sir Robert Borden and General Smuts of South Africa sponsored a resolution which called for the preservation of the "powers of self-government and complete control of domestic affairs... based upon a full recognition of the Dominions as autonomous nations of an Imperial Commonwealth". Ambiguous though it might have been, this resolution was, in fact, a gigantic step forward.

In 1919, at the time of the Versailles Treaty, due to the policy of Sir Robert Borden, His Majesty's Canadian plenipotentiaries signed on behalf of Canada, and Canada became a member of the League of Nations. She was also a founding member of the International Labour Organization.

Honourable senators, war accelerates many developments. The First World War and its aftermath brought Canada far along the road of national autonomy. By 1921 the Right Honourable Arthur Meighen had assumed the office of Prime Minister, and he too continued this forthright approach. He urged closer consultation on imperial matters, especially in commercial and political treaties which would affect the dominions. In respect of matters touching the relationships between Canada and the United States, he was adamant that Canada's views should be definitive. The extent of his prestige in the councils of the Empire is evidenced in the abrogation of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance.

Within a few years Mr. Mackenzie King became Canada's spokesman. Early in his prime ministership he established a position of self-determination for Canada in the Chanak incident of 1922. On that occasion he asserted the principle that no Canadian troops would be dispatched to the Near East without the prior approval of the Parliament of Canada. In the same year, when the Halibut Fishing Treaty between Canada and the United States was concluded, the documents were signed on behalf of Canada by the Honourable Ernest Lapointe alone. Both of these events were monuments erected upon older foundations.

Perhaps the most significant of all steps taken at imperial conferences was the definition of the new status of the dominions, which was adopted in 1926. The committee which recommended the definition sat under the chairmanship of the Earl of Balfour, and Canada, South Africa and the Irish Free State were leaders on the side of the dominions.

This is not to say that there was British opposition. Mr. King was not the Canadian Prime Minister when the Statute of Westminster was passed in 1931, but that statute reflected his policy and the 1926 definition.

During the time of Mr. Bennett's prime ministership the development proceeded. As I have said, the Statute of Westminster was passed in 1931. In 1932 the Imperial Economic Conference was held in Ottawa, and Canada played a leading role. When the Bank of Canada was established during Mr. Bennett's time, an important element of national sovereignty was confirmed. That element was the right of a nation to control its own monetary policy.

When war came in 1939, Mr. King was again prime minister. This time, unlike 1914, the declaration of war was made on behalf of Canada by the sovereign, but the step was taken only after the Canadian Parliament had approved the proposal. The war effort was large and effective, and heroic in the services. On the home front it was tremendous. Throughout, it was distinctively Canadian. Canada financed it all, and in addition provided substantial aid to her allies.

At the conclusion of the war, when the United Nations was established, Canada was one of the founding countries. Canada has since given strong, effective support to the work of the United Nations, and in no area has this been more effective than in the peace-keeping operations upon which she is embarked.

Canada, in Mr. St. Laurent's time, became an original, and continues to be a valued member of the NATO Alliance. She has never hesitated to stand alongside the other free nations in the defence of the West.

In Mr. St. Laurent's day, Canada asserted her right to recommend to the Queen the appointment of a Canadian as the Queen's representative in Canada. In this time, too, the Supreme Court of Canada was designated as the court of final resort for the determination of judicial disputes in Canada. In 1949, upon the petition of the Canadian Parliament, an amendment was made to the British North America Act which would empower the Parliament of Canada alone further to amend the act in respect of matters coming within federal jurisdiction. Once the Canadian authorities agree as to detail, as they have agreed in principle, the Constitution of this country will be completely patriated. We are upon the threshold of this development now.

The evidence of the sovereignty of Canada is fortified by the existence in Ottawa of nearly a hundred official representatives of foreign countries. Canada's foreign aid program, begun in wartime and augmented through the peace, is further evidence of her