

charge of Canadian affairs and will at all times be the ordinary channel of communication with the United States Government in matters of purely Canadian concern, acting upon instructions from, and reporting direct to, the Canadian Government. 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. He will be accredited by His Majesty to the President with the necessary powers for the purpose.

This new arrangement will not denote any departure either on the part of the British Government or of the Canadian Government from the principle of the diplomatic unity of the British Empire.

The need for this important step has been fully realized by both Governments for some time. For a good many years there has been direct communication between Washington and Ottawa, but the constantly increasing importance of Canadian interests in the United States had made it apparent that Canada should be represented there in some distinctive manner, for this would doubtless tend to expedite negotiations, and naturally first hand acquaintance with Canadian conditions would promote good understanding. In view of the peculiarly close relations that have always existed between the people of Canada and those of the United States, it is confidently expected as well that this new step will have the very desirable result of maintaining and strengthening the friendly relations and co-operation between the British Empire and the United States.

This is the action, not only of Sir Robert Borden's Government, but of my honourable friend himself, and now he expresses surprise that the Canadian Government has been in conference with the Washington authorities over matters distinctly and especially Canadian.

My honourable friend has spoken somewhat in disparagement of negotiations between the various parties interested in the waters of the Lake of the Woods, which is an international lake. I would urge him to wait until these matters are brought directly to the attention of the House of Commons and the Senate, to be discussed on their merits.

I have already mentioned the fact that the Prime Minister has not taken upon himself the whole credit for the removal of the cattle embargo. I know there have been good labourers in that field for a number of years. I would remind the honourable gentleman, however, that it is due to the vigorous action of our Canadian representative in London, Mr. Larkin, and to the presence there of Mr. Fielding and Mr. Lapointe in November and December last, that the Imperial Parliament decided to take up the question and put through an Act. Considerable pressure was exercised upon the Imperial authorities to have the matter deferred, and I may say—and I know whereof I speak—that it is due to the vigorous representations of our Canadian representatives and our Ministers abroad, as well as to the action of the Government

here, that the matter has been brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

My honourable friend has spoken of the board of directors of the Canadian National Railways. He said it was a pity that the board was composed of party men. My honourable friend is in error. I have not in mind at the moment the names of all the members of the other board, but all those I knew were competent and honourable men. If I had their names before me I would probably say that all these men were good citizens of Canada. There was, however, a reason for removing them, just as there was a reason for selecting a president for the new national railway from outside of Canada, or at all events outside of the two systems that will form the Canadian National Railways. For the purpose of maintaining harmony and giving full scope to the authority of the new directors it was necessary that they should not belong to one system or the other. That was a very important consideration on the part of the Government in removing the old directors, the selection of a new president was made for a similar reason.

Hon. Mr. BENNETT: May I ask the honourable gentleman to which division Mr. Hobson, a strong Liberal of Hamilton, belongs?

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: He voted for you in the last election.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I do not mind that.

Hon. Mr. BENNETT: To which group did he belong—the Canadian Northern or the Grand Trunk?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I could not say: I am speaking in general terms. But I may say that the few men who will bring their influence to bear on the board of management, and who are not railway men, compare favourably in stature with those who have gone, and among the men who comprise the board I know of only one who has been in active politics. That is Mr. Sinclair, who, besides being a legal authority, is a ship-builder and has had considerable experience. A representative from each province was not chosen, but one was taken from the Maritime Provinces, another from Quebec, and another from Ontario. They will simply bring to the Board the experience they have had in their own regions. The individual members will be submerged in the whole board and be guided by the technical men upon it. But it will not be a bad thing for the Maritime provinces to have on the board a member who