

*31. Le Gouverneur général au secrétaire aux Colonies*

TELEGRAM

Ottawa, October 31, 1917

SECRET. The following message for you from my Prime Minister. Begins. For many years questions of great importance arising between the United States and Canada, respecting disputes as to the delimitation and use of boundary waters, the management of international fishery waters and many other subjects, have been disposed of by commissioners appointed by the two Governments or by conferences between United States and Canadian officials and with excellent results. At present Canadian Food Controller, Canadian Fuel Controller and Canadian Board of Grain Supervisors confer directly with corresponding Boards in United States and quick and efficient co-operation is thereby secured. To these methods of procedure, I am not aware that any constitutional objections have been or can be urged. They have developed naturally by ignoring old forms which have lost their meaning and adopting direct and businesslike means of communication. It is vitally important that such development should continue. Canada has now double the population with which United States commenced national career and practically same number as inhabited British Isles during the early Napoleonic wars. Her relations with the United States are of most intimate and important character and commercial and business relations between the two countries are naturally closer than those between United Kingdom and United States. Lord Bryce told us that three-quarters of work of Embassy in his time related to Canada and this ratio will probably be maintained. Yet hitherto Canada has had no representation on Embassy nor in any permanent direct way. Thus her interests have sometimes suffered from oversight or lack of information. Obviously this situation cannot continue. My proposal involves a suitable and dignified status for Canada's representative, but there is no desire to create anything in the nature of a separate Embassy. After discussion with the Ambassador who is in Ottawa, I am convinced that there will be no unsurmountable difficulty in accomplishing this. Hazen will probably visit Washington in immediate future and before appointment. The Ambassador informs us provision of suitable accommodation will be very difficult owing to needs of United States Departments and Commissions.

*32. Le Gouverneur général au secrétaire aux Colonies*

TELEGRAM

Ottawa, November 5, 1917

SECRET. Following from Prime Minister for you. Begins. We have decided that question of representation at Washington will stand until after election. At present there are serious difficulties about securing accommodation. Hazen has been appointed Chief Justice of New Brunswick, and it is anticipated that he will be Chief Representative of Canada on a proposed Commission to confer with the United States Government on important question touching Atlantic and Pacific fisheries. In January the Government, if returned to power, will take up again the general question of representation at Washington.