

*27. Colonial Secretary to Governor General*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM

London, October 16, 1917

SECRET. Perley brought to my notice following telegram from Sir Robert Borden.<sup>1</sup> I brought the question before the Cabinet this morning. They of course realize full importance of it. I understand however that the appointment is only for the war and that future arrangements will still be open to consideration. I suggest that it would be desirable in the interests of Dominion as well as ourselves and especially having regard to what passed between your Prime Minister and myself during his recent visit that Mr. Hazen should be attached to the Embassy at Washington while of course the Dominion Government would retain full control over him.

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*28. Governor General to Colonial Secretary.*

TELEGRAM

Ottawa, October 18, 1917

SECRET. Your cable yesterday respecting Canadian representation at Washington. Prime Minister observes that conference during his recent visit contemplated appointment of an official who might be properly attached to Embassy, rather than an important representative to the Government who, in respect of matters directly and solely concerning Canadian interests should have recognized diplomatic status. Prime Minister fears that having regard to Hazen's position during past three years as important member of the Government, his attachment to the Embassy would be liable to misconception and that there is every reason to believe that it would not be congenial to Hazen himself. Prime Minister earnestly hopes that you will accept this view of the situation as, under the conditions which you suggest, it would be most difficult and probably impossible to secure the services of any person possessing the necessary status, having regard to public opinion in this country. Proposed appointment is for period of war, after which whole question of representation at Washington must be carefully reconsidered. He would be grateful if you would make Perley acquainted with terms of this message.

*29. Colonial Secretary to Governor General*

TELEGRAM

London, October 24, 1917

SECRET AND PRIVATE. Your telegram October 20th. Please inform your Prime Minister that his proposal that Canada should have at Washington a representative who should have recognized diplomatic status in respect of matters directly and solely concerning Canada and should not be attached to our Embassy appears to me to raise a grave constitutional issue and as such it will call for the most serious consideration by the Cabinet. I will bring it before my colleagues without delay.

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<sup>1</sup> Document 25.