

that the Dominions and India, contributing more than one-seventh of the League's revenues, constituted a group from which representation might reasonably be selected. When the Covenant of the League was being drafted, during the Peace Conference in Paris, Sir Robert Borden had secured from the "Big Three" a definite statement that in their view the Dominions were eligible for a Council seat.¹ During the Assembly of September, 1926, Sir George Foster, speaking for the Dominions and India, stated: "So far as my country and the other members of the British overseas countries are concerned, we have not hitherto made and are not now making any claim for a seat on the Council of the League. But it is pertinent, and I think it is right at this stage to say to this Assembly and to the League itself, that we consider that we have equal rights to representation on the Council and otherwise with every one of the fifty-six members of the League of Nations, and that we do not propose to waive that right." The Irish Free State, on the same occasion, announced its candidacy at the last moment, not anticipating election but desiring to establish the principle. By 1927 it had become apparent that unless the principle was definitely asserted, a rotation would become stereotyped from which the Dominions would be excluded. The announcement of Canada's intention received support from all the other British Commonwealth members and from many other quarters in Europe, Asia and Latin America, though the competing claims of other states and some surviving misapprehensions as to the relation between the members of the Commonwealth operated in the contrary direction. The vote resulted in the election of Cuba, which had been selected as the Latin-American representative, Finland, as a Northern European state, and Canada, with Greece and Portugal following in that order.

The selection of Canada is to be regarded as an evidence of trust and goodwill on the part of the other member states and a definite answer to the doubts expressed some years ago as to whether all seven members of the Commonwealth represented in the League could be full-fledged and equal members. It also involves increased responsibilities during the three-year term of office: representation on the quarterly Council meetings, representation on the Preparatory Disarmament Commission and certain standing organizations such as the Permanent Advisory Committee as well as on temporary committees, with a consequent greater need of preparation and study of the problems which come before the Council and Assembly for decision.

After Canada's election, Senator Dandurand took his place in the Forty-Seventh Session of the Council, in which differences between Rumania and Hungary over expropriation of estates in the territories ceded by Hungary to Rumania, between Poland and the Free City of Danzig as to the status of the Westerplatte peninsula and the right of Poland to maintain a munitions depot on it, and between Greece and Germany as to delivery of the cruiser *Salamis*, were discussed, and steps also taken to execute the decisions of the Assembly.

¹"The question having been raised as to the meaning of Article IV of the League of Nations Covenant, we have been requested by Sir Robert Borden to state whether we concur in his view, that upon the true construction of the first and second paragraphs of that Article, representatives of the self-governing Dominions of the British Empire may be selected or named as members of the Council. We have no hesitation in expressing our entire concurrence in this view. If there were any doubt it would be entirely removed by the fact that the Articles of the Covenant are not subject to a narrow or technical construction.

"Dated at the Quai d'Orsay, Paris, the sixth day of May, 1919.

"(Signed) G. CLEMENCEAU
WOODROW WILSON
D. LLOYD GEORGE"