

resources. The United States and Canada have more than doubled their respective populations. In the case of trade, our total trade in Canada in 1900 amounted to 380 million. Today it amounts to something close to 5 billion.

So far as its relation with the rest of the world is concerned, Canada was a colony of Great Britain in 1900. Today Canada is a sovereign nation playing a major role in the world, and her international influence is developing rapidly.

There is one aspect of the development of both our countries which is fundamentally different. We in Canada have gone through the colonial stage to that of sovereignty through a process of slow and progressive evolution, while you have become a sovereign nation following a decisive revolution.

It will be profitable for a moment or so to look into the different stages of this development of ours towards sovereignty. It is an evolution which can be understood only if the decisive events which led up to it are kept in mind.

Canada's participation in the first world war had demonstrated her capacity to play her role as an independent nation in the international field, and earned us the opportunity to participate in the subsequent deliberations determining the peace. As a member of the League of Nations, we had established and developed direct relations with other countries.

These external relations have contributed materially to the constitutional development of British countries and have led to the declaration, at the Imperial Conference of London in 1926, that all the autonomous dominions, which until then had been part of an international empire, were in fact equal in status in a British Commonwealth of Nations.

Since 1926 we have implemented the constitutional consequences of this decision. In 1931 the British Parliament adopted a law known as the Statute of Westminster whereby the decision of 1926 was consolidated and fully applied. At the beginning of the Second World War, in 1939, we gave the fullest proof of our national autonomy. In 1914, Canada entered the war more or less automatically because the United Kingdom was at war. In 1939, the decision to participate in the war was taken by the representatives of the Canadian people in their own parliament. Such a decision was taken because these men believed that it was in the interest of Canada to do so. They had the right to decide otherwise, had they thought that isolation was wise and practical.

It was also by an act of its own free will that Canada joined your own country in an express understanding of joint defence for both nations. You will remember that at Kingston, in 1939, President Roosevelt declared that the United States would be opposed to any attempt coming from any power which wished to extend its domination over Canadian soil. Mr. Mackenzie King declared that Canada would resist any country that would attempt to use Canadian soil as a base from which to attack the United States. Two years later in August, 1940, at one of the darkest hours of the Second World War, Messrs. Roosevelt and King signed the Ogdensburg Agreement, establishing a permanent committee of joint defence for the North American Continent.

The evolution of Canada as a sovereign nation has been well exemplified by the growth of our diplomatic service. The first fully diplomatic post was opened in 1927 in Washington. We now have thirty diplomatic missions in different parts of the world.