

had taken in this war, of the service and sacrifice of her troops in the common cause, and in view of the status of Canada as one of the nations of the Empire, she was entitled to be represented at the Peace Conference. One can at once recognize that that involved most serious constitutional questions, for while, within the family of nations that make up the Empire, we had reached that stage where all were prepared to agree that the Empire was a league of nations each of equal status, the other nations of the world had not yet been asked to agree to that position and it was entirely a different question to secure their assent to the new and unique position of the British Empire. When this contention was pressed by Sir Robert Borden upon Mr. Lloyd George it had his hearty sympathy, and he was of the opinion that if this new position of the British Empire was to be recognized, it was absolutely necessary for Sir Robert Borden, who had been so influential in bringing about this new and changed relation, to go overseas immediately to take up the question of the representation of the Dominions at the Peace Conference. It was because of this request and for this purpose that the Prime Minister left at the early date he did. The Prime Minister of Canada, I say, took the position that Canada was entitled to be represented at the Conference. The negotiations were protracted. First, the assent of the British Government must be secured. They did assent and the Imperial War Cabinet approved. The matter was then taken up with Allied Governments. I imagine it is quite true that at first the United States offered some objection, because they did not understand or appreciate our changed status, but I am glad to say when they did understand and recognize it they withdrew all objection.

You ask, what is Canada's status at the Conference? The Conference is composed of the five great powers, and other nations which are called secondary powers. Each of the great powers is entitled to five representatives, and the secondary powers are entitled to three, two, or one, according to their varying positions in the war and other considerations which entered into the determination of representation. What is Canada's representation? First of all, there are five representatives of the British Empire, one of the five great powers. Three or four of those representatives, I believe, are permanent members of the Conference. The other representatives are drawn from a panel which includes the statesmen of the overseas Dominions. At all plenary sessions of

the Conference, therefore, there are a certain number of representatives of Great Britain and one or two representatives drawn from the panel composed of the statesmen of the whole British Empire, representing Great Britain and the Empire at large as one of the great powers. A representative of Canada, therefore, as part of the British Empire delegation, may be present at the plenary sessions of the Conference. In addition, the Overseas Dominions have the status of secondary powers at the conference and Canada is entitled to be represented, as a secondary power, at all plenary sessions and at all meetings where her interests are specially affected, by two representatives. The other dominions, Australia and South Africa, are also entitled to two representatives each, New Zealand to one, and India to two. The result is that at all plenary sessions of the conference there are five delegates representing the British Empire as a whole, one of whom is chosen from the Dominion's delegates, and nine other delegates representing the British Dominions and India, making a possibility of fourteen in all. At the first plenary session of the conference Canada had three representatives, two representing Canada and one serving on the British Empire panel. Canada has also had three representatives at other important sessions of the conference. The hon. member for Edmonton East (Mr. Mackie) has asked whether Canada will sign any peace treaty. The question has not yet come up for consideration, but my own personal opinion is that in view of Canada's status at the conference she undoubtedly would sign. I should think the British Foreign Secretary or Prime Minister would sign on behalf of Great Britain and the Empire at large, and the Prime Minister of Canada would sign as one of the secondary powers.

I come now to the constitution of the League of Nations, which is probably one of the most momentous documents that has ever been penned. It is too early to discuss its terms; they have not yet been discussed at the Peace Conference itself; the committee has simply presented its report. The covenant, however, makes express provision for the representation of the Dominions, and I venture to believe that when this covenant is signed the name of Canada will appear as one of the charter members of the league, as one of the nations of the British Empire. Hon gentlemen will recall that the direction of the affairs of the League of Nations is entrusted to a council of the league composed