

The second reason was that the relationship between the Dominion and the provinces had been far from satisfactory before the war. In fact, the problem of Dominion-Provincial relations was one to which serious and urgent attention was being given before the war.

Proceedings Prior to Conference.

For some time previous, prior to the opening of the conference in August last, following several months of co-operation with the provinces in the preparation of statistical material, a comprehensive set of proposals for Dominion-Provincial co-operation had been worked out by the Dominion. These proposals were submitted to the conference when it opened its proceedings in August last. They were made public at the time.

The provinces had been invited to make proposals of their own. At the meeting in August, certain of the provinces submitted proposals, other provinces made informal statements. It was felt by the provinces that they would require time to study the Dominion proposals, to prepare comments or criticisms, and to suggest modifications, and to make alternative proposals, as they were invited to do.