

that it is certainly better that these should be treated by someone who being a Canadian will be better prepared to handle them than any regular British representative could be. The matter was I think largely a question of expediency and opportunity. The question presented itself thus. How soon will it be worth while for the Canadian government to bear the expense necessary for setting up a legation at Washington? The Canadian government has decided that that time has come and, if I may say so without impertinence, I think the establishment of the legation was a wise move, and that nothing could have been happier than the choice of Mr. Massey to launch the ship. Proud as I was to represent Canada at Washington, I always felt that some day—perhaps in my time perhaps later—Canadians might feel rightly or wrongly that their business was not being handled properly by the British embassy. Now that I have passed the buck to Mr. Massey he will get all the blame if there is any going and I shall be able to sit back quietly in my chair unperturbed and at ease.

May I say that that is true equally of our representation at Tokyo, and perhaps even more true in that case, seeing that in relations with the orient there are in some particulars questions which affect this Dominion to a greater degree perhaps than any other part of the British Empire. I think it is all important, and for the good of the empire, for the preservation of the empire and for the unity of the empire, that there should be representing Canada at Tokyo someone who knows Canadian problems, who understands the situation, for example, in the province of British Columbia with respect to immigration, with respect to trade, and with respect to the hundred and one other questions that have already arisen and are appearing in our relations with Japan, who will be able there, in Japan, not only to make known Canadian opinion, but be in a position also to give us through Canadian eyes a knowledge of the questions that are arising in Japan itself, and of the atmosphere in which they are being discussed. That is the point I would like to make. I am afraid that in hurrying over this subject so rapidly I am not developing it as well as I should.

I would say to my hon. friend that already the method of having different parts of the British Empire represented at a single centre for the purpose of conferences on matters affecting the empire as a whole, but having special reference to their own particular part, has already been tried out and has worked very successfully. It worked out at Versailles, dealing with the great question of the settlement of the war, at which conferences all parts of the British Empire were represented. It has worked well at the conferences at Geneva, and at the different conferences that have been held at Washington. Wherever

there have been conferences at which all the different parts of the British Empire have been represented the result up to the present moment has been success, success and success. We have sufficient in the way of evidence to believe that in connection with these legations, if they are established, the same methods and the same attitude will prevail, and prevail for the good of all.

In regard to my hon. friend's reference to independence, may I say that he has got hold of the wrong word. It is not independence, it is self-dependence we are thinking about in the appointment of these legations, self-dependence and self-reliance in larger measure as we have increased responsibilities and increased obligations. My hon. friend, I presume, would be agreeable to having all our foreign business conducted at the expense of Great Britain.

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: No.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What is his alternative? It is to tax the Canadian people and pay part of the expenses of the British officials to look after our affairs?

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: Certainly not.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Then the other way is to let the British government do it at its own expense?

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: My suggestion was that we should have some system whereby each part of the empire would pay a share of the expense and each part would have a say as to the appointments, and that the foreign staff should no longer be appointed solely by the foreign office of Great Britain.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend will strive from now till doomsday but never succeed in working out a plan of that kind. You will never get the foreign office in Great Britain to allow this country to say who is to run that office in any particular, any more than you could get the people of Canada to agree to allow somebody to come here from the Old Country and say how the affairs of this Dominion shall be run.

Mr. ADSHEAD: Does the Prime Minister know whether the statement that was made by Mr. Asquith that the foreign policy of Great Britain could never be shared by the different parts of the empire, but must be dictated by Downing street, has ever been refuted by any responsible statesman?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think we might say such an opinion by whomsoever expressed has been refuted by experience.