

United States Government becomes necessary. Such official communication, of course, is communicated in copy to Ottawa and London. It has been the custom of the British Ambassador to go to Ottawa at least twice a year in order to confer with the Governor General and his Ministers, and to make verbal reports and explanations as to the business in Washington and the political situation. Under war conditions an immense amount of technical business as to munitions, supplies, shipping, etc., has been carried on direct between persons representing Canadian interests or the Canadian Government and the various committees now in Washington directing and controlling the war industries on behalf of the United States Government. There is as yet no central organization representing the interests of Canada as a whole. Should the decision be made to establish such a central organization, the question involved is one merely of business convenience, and does not involve any diplomatic question unless, of course, communications are made in the name of such a central organization direct to the United States Government regarded as a Government. In such cases it would become necessary to refer the matter to the Embassy as is done by the British War Mission when diplomatic communications become necessary, although this is only occasionally the case.

To sum up the situation, Canada takes advantage of her geographical situation and the short distance between Ottawa and Washington in order to transact Canadian business direct with the Department of the United States Government which deals with such business. This is a distinct advantage such as is enjoyed by no other country on this continent in its dealings with the United States. Although technically irregular from the diplomatic point of view, the State Department raises no objection as long as it is informed of the fact that such direct relations take place, and as long as no engagement is entered into without the express permission and consent of the Secretary of State. The question of direct diplomatic representation of Canada is naturally a very complicated one and requires for its solution the consent of the United States Government, which would not allow any diplomatic representative to be accredited at Washington without its consent being given. A minor question to which, however, some attention should be given, is connected with the dignity of the Dominion, which should demand a position for its representative, should it have one, at least equal to that of Mexico and Brazil, who have their own Ambassadors. If, therefore, the Dominion on the analogy of Bavaria or Saxony in certain countries, has its own direct representative in Washington, the position of such representative should be a very high one and the cost would be very considerable. At the present moment, Canada profits by its geographical situation, and has the exceptional position of the right of free and direct access to all the Departments of the United States Government. It should not, however, be forgotten that dignity requires reciprocity in this respect, and that United States officials should also in their turn visit Ottawa should the occasion arise. Mr. Root attached much importance to this, and himself visited Ottawa on several occasions. A similar arrangement was made by the Laurier Government