

After Versailles

A CRUCIAL period in Canada's long development from colonial status to nationhood is the subject of Volume 3 of *Documents on Canadian External Relations*. This bilingual volume, covering Canada's external relations from November 11, 1918, to December 31, 1925, will be on sale at Information Canada bookshops early in 1971. ⁽¹⁾

Volume 3 differs from Volume 1 (1909-1918) and Volume 2 (The Paris Peace Conference, 1919) in that the earlier volumes had separate English and French editions; as a result, the latest of the *Documents* series is a more practical, if somewhat larger, volume. As with the contents of Volume 1 and 2, the documents in Volume 3 are printed in the original language.

The introduction to Volume 3, by its editor, Lovell C. Clark of the University of Manitoba, offers the prospective reader a guide to the work and the thinking behind it:

"The transitional character of the period has affected both the kind of material selected for publication and its organization.

"Canadian and British leaders were confronted with a number of alternative courses in the evolution of Imperial relationships. There were many proposals, and much speculation and experimentation, in an effort to determine the direction which Britain and the self-governing Dominions should take. To restrict the selection of *Documents* to those which reflect settled policies would have meant publishing very little. On many subjects the researcher would have been greeted with official silence. For this reason there has been a considerable reliance upon documents which illustrate the formulation of policy, or attempts to formulate it, even where the proposals failed of acceptance. Some memoranda have been included which explain not why a particular decision, but rather no decision at all, was made. One example may suffice. It is well known that the Government of Sir Robert L. Borden won the right to appoint a Canadian Minister to Washington as early as 1919, but in fact the appointment was not made until late in 1926. A memorandum by an important member of the King Cabinet, William Stevens Fielding, helps to explain the delay; this is the justification for including it among the published documents.

"The period witnessed expansion in the scope of Canada's external relations, and this has naturally affected the organization of the material. There is a temptation when dealing with the external relations of a colony, as Canada was then, to subsume many topics under the inclusive heading of Imperial Relations. One might well expect to find the Chanak 'incident' of 1922 so classified. Instead, it is to be found under 'Peace Settlement with Turkey', which forms

(1) The price of this volume, which contains almost 1,000 pages of documents, will be \$12.00.