

involvement in strictly European affairs. Meighen himself, then sitting in Opposition, was undecided, and appreciated Christie's comments. In a private letter of January 4, 1925, he wrote to Christie:

I must say my mind is quite disturbed on the subject of this Locarno Treaty, and I cannot say that I have any mature view on the matter at all. Sir Robert Borden seems in about the same position. I have made an effort to get some time to study the treaty itself and the various articles written on it, but have not got to it yet. However there will be an adjournment of the House before we ever reach it and I will then have time. The treaty itself has been received with acclaim in Canada and seems to be as yet almost universally regarded as a great triumph of British diplomacy. On the other hand your argument is to me perfectly understandable and disturbs me very much. I will read carefully the articles you have indicated and will welcome with thanks any further data you can provide. I don't expect the Government will ask for ratification here. (1)

The Dominions, as Prof. MacGregor Dawson points out, (2) had rejected the Geneva Protocol of 1924, and had contracted out of the Lausanne Treaty, and did not welcome any additional obligations other than those which they had already assumed under the League of Nations. The Imperial Government therefore resorted to the device of sending delegates to Locarno who represented Great Britain rather than the Empire, while informing the Dominions of the status of the delegates and the circumstances leading to their appointment. The Dominions were not consulted during the negotiations, but they were kept continuously informed of their progress. They were, moreover, assured that they would in no way be

(1) Meighen Papers, Vol.55, File 28. L.C. Christie.

(2) Dawson: The Development of Dominion Status, 1900-36, p. 101.