

should remain in Paris in what is manifestly a subordinate capacity until the boundaries of Czecho-Slovakia and Poland are arranged, the tangled mess of Balkan intrigue is sorted out, and the last comma is inserted in the Peace Treaty? . . .

If the President of the United States can return to his duties at home, leaving the diplomats to settle the details involved in the great decisions arrived at during the past few weeks, would it not be possible for the Premier of Canada also to come home and put a little energy into the Administration at Ottawa? It is notoriously weak on the executive side. This becomes more marked as time passes. That weakness is accentuated by the prolonged absences of the Prime Minister. Diplomacy seems to fascinate him. In 1917-18, and now in 1919, he has found it necessary to answer calls to take part in the larger affairs of the Empire in London or in Paris. His presence on each occasion for a short time was probably necessary, but in the last analysis Canada must be governed by Canadians for Canadians. The proper seat of such a Government is Ottawa. Sir Robert Borden should come home and meet Parliament at the end of the month. There are plenty of foot-loose statesmen in Paris to attend to Czecho-Slovakia and Bolshevik Russia. (1)

Such was Borden's recognized prestige and skill as a negotiator that, even after he had gone into Opposition, he was continued* by King to be Canada's chief representative on the British Delegation at the Washington Naval Limitation of Armaments Conference in 1922, at which he was accompanied once more by L.C. Christie and by Merriam as his Secretary, and J. Mailhot as filing clerk and messenger. As a reflection on the, still under-staffed Department, Glazebrook remarks of Borden's mission on this occasion that in addition to a Private Secretary, he was accompanied only by the Legal Adviser of the Department of External Affairs - though even this meant one-third of the officers of the Department. (2)

(1) Borden Papers, C.C. 553.

* Borden had been appointed Canadian delegate to Washington by Mr. Meighen while the latter was Prime Minister, on October 3, 1921. (File 1518-20). After the King Government was elected, Borden, on December 26, 1921, offered to resign, but on January 3, 1922, King asked him to continue. (File 1518-20).

(2) Glazebrook: op. cit. p. 353.