

Then, in addition to the Department of External Affairs and the permanent agencies abroad, there are various conferences held from time to time. Mr. Lloyd George has said that the chief political development of the post-war era has been the utilization of conferences. . . . There has been a marked development in the getting together of governments to deal with international problems by conference, and there can be little doubt that it is a helpful and indeed indispensable procedure. . . . We have in the Department at Ottawa a central agency whose duty it is to provide a permanent storehouse of information and a central directing force for the work in the legations abroad, and to facilitate participation in the Imperial Conferences, the League of Nations and the special conferences from time to time. Other departments are of course interested in their special phases of this international work.

Canada has been taking a rapidly increasing part, a big part, in the development of its international relations. In view of the improvisation of many of the agencies used in this development, it is a part which no one who views Canada's share in international affairs from the framing of the Treaty of Versailles and the establishment of the League of Nations down to the present time will say is wholly inadequate. Development has been rapid, but it has not yet progressed far enough. I do not think either that anyone who has looked into the facts will say it has involved undue burden upon the country. (1)

(1) Minutes of Select Standing Committee on Industrial and International Relations, March 25, 1930, pp.10-12.