

REPORT OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATES
TO THE
SIXTH ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

To His Excellency

The Governor General in Council:

The undersigned delegates, appointed to represent Canada at the Sixth Assembly of the League of Nations, have the honour to report as follows:—

The Sixth Assembly met at Geneva from September 7 to 26, 1925. Delegations were sent by forty-nine out of the fifty-five States members. The Government of Costa Rica had expressed its intention of withdrawing from the League. The Assembly expressed the hope that the Government of this country might again find it possible to co-operate with the League.

Mr. Painlevé, Acting President of the Council of the League, opened the Assembly and, in his speech, drew attention to the fact that the Protocol of 1924 for Pacific Settlement of International Disputes had lapsed because it had not been ratified by the required number of States. This Protocol included provision for the signature of regional agreements. The Assembly, said the speaker, may re-examine the Protocol and amend it or may consider the application of its principles to partial agreements. Referring to a letter addressed by Germany to the Council, on December 12, 1924, Mr. Painlevé declared that the Assembly would share the wish expressed by the Council to see Germany associated with the labours of the League and "thus playing, in the organization of peace, a part corresponding to her position in the world." He further added that the League and the United States of America "are impelled to co-operate freely for the good of humanity."

After the election and the report of the Committee on Credentials, the Assembly elected its president. Forty-seven States voted. The first delegate of Canada, Senator Raoul Dandurand, obtained forty-one votes and was proclaimed elected President of the Assembly by Mr. Painlevé, and welcomed as follows: "Canada, which Senator Dandurand represents, is a country where the British and French civilizations at one period of history came into dire conflict; yet to-day they live there united in a common brotherhood."

Mr. Dandurand took the presidential chair and answered in the following terms:—

"I have no illusions, ladies and gentlemen, as to the real meaning of your votes and of your applause. It is not my humble self, but Canada, that you desire to honour.

"I have been deeply touched by the words, too kind indeed, which have been addressed to me by the statesman who is both President of the Council of the League of Nations and Prime Minister of France. As a descendant of the heroic Frenchmen who were the pioneers of civilization throughout the North American continent, I am profoundly moved at being received in this assembly by the representative of a country the traditions and language of which have remained those of the racial group to which I belong.

"Your act has clearly shown your friendship for the young nation that I represent. May I express my feelings of pride and gratitude? Canada will not be alone in appreciating your generosity and goodwill. Her sister nations, which are under the same crown, will feel justly proud.

"We have only just appeared in international circles. You will understand that in our youth we are extremely glad that you have conferred so high a dignity upon us.

"Our appearance in international life was hardly noticed. Our rapid development was recognized by our signature to the Treaty of Versailles. Our political status perhaps was received abroad with some surprise and possibly yet is not generally understood. History