

the Arbitration Treaties of 1908 and 1911, the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, the Fisheries Arbitration Treaty of the same year, the Passamaquoddy Bay Treaty of 1910, the Pecuniary Claims Treaty of 1911, and the Pelagic Sealing Treaty of 1911.⁽¹⁾

In almost all of these, Canadians assisted in the negotiations,; the Government in Ottawa, as well as Downing Street, guided Bryce, and even the Governor General, Earl Grey, used his influence. In all these instances, the diplomatic unity of the Empire remained unimpaired, and the appointment of any Canadian representatives was made through the Imperial Government.

In questions of foreign policy elsewhere, mainly in relation to Europe, Britain acted for the Empire with scarcely any consultation with the Colonies or Dominions, and for the most part without their direct interest. The idea of the Dominions taking any part in general policy was absent; the Governments overseas were not anxious to be burdened with responsibility, and the Imperial Government was not willing to cumber its action by discussions with the Colonial Government.⁽²⁾ Laurier repeatedly declared that in these matters Canada was not prepared to interfere or to assume co-ordinate responsibility; nor in fact was it at that stage competent to do so, being inexperienced in the intricacies of European foreign policy.

Despite Canadian criticism or complaints in certain cases, Canada before the First War, and before

(1) Berriedale Keith: Responsible Government in the Dominion, II. p.866.

(2) Ibid. See pp.872-3 for examples.