

WHAT OF CANADA?

could be framed; and if the Treaty had provided that such dispute "shall" be referred, the work would be perfect. As it is, the Dominion must give consent through the Dominion Cabinet. That is an easy task. We have a government which is united—it must be united or it could not stand—and which in this instance does not need to go to Parliament for authority. But in the United States the action must be by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and sometimes trouble arises in the Senate about confirming treaties.

But now we are going far beyond that: A Canadian Minister is to be placed at Washington to attend to all Canadian matters—perhaps the official statement will be sufficiently complete for the present purpose. It reads:

As a result of recent discussions, an arrangement has been concluded between the British and Canadian Governments to provide more complete representation of Canadian interests at Washington than has hitherto existed. Accordingly it has been agreed that His Majesty, on the advice of his Canadian Ministers, shall appoint a Minister Plenipotentiary who will have charge of Canadian affairs and will at all times be the ordinary channel of communication with the United States Government in matters of purely Canadian concern, acting upon instructions from, and reporting direct to the Canadian Government.

In the absence of the Ambassador, the Canadian Minister will take charge of the whole Embassy and of the representation of Imperial as well as Canadian interests. He will be accredited by His Majesty to the President with necessary powers for the purpose. This new arrangement will not denote any departure either on the part of the British Government or the Canadian Government from the principle of the diplomatic unity of the British Empire.

The need for this important step has been fully realized by both Governments for some time. For a good many years there has been direct communication between Ottawa and Washington, but the constantly increasing importance of Canadian interests in the United States has made it apparent that in addition Canada should be represented there in some distinctive manner, for this would doubtless tend to expedite negotiations and, natur-