

because they happen to have a few ships on the sea or in their ports, and some sort of nucleus of an army within their frontiers. They rely upon the new spirit that animates the world, a spirit of fair play and justice. These are the principles that govern the dealings of nation with nation, and it is this higher standard of civilization that will gradually permit of a reduction of armies and navies throughout the world. Nations with a population of ten millions or less have representation abroad and direct contact with other countries, yet that does not make for danger nor create in their minds any fear. On the contrary, it brings them into touch and enables them to deal directly with other nations in all matters of interest to them.

My honourable friend (Hon. W. B. Ross) has spoken of Washington. He knows that a number of prominent members sitting on his side of the House, who have been members of the Borden and Meighen Governments, are responsible for the establishment of the legation in Washington. It was Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden who, with some of his colleagues, carried on direct negotiations for the establishment of that legation. Why did he do so? He could have sent a commercial agent, but he felt that to do so would not meet the conditions. And what were the conditions? A commercial agent has no entry into various departments. He cannot speak with authority in the name of his country to the heads of the departments. Consequently, for the past sixty years, Canada had to apply to the British Embassy. Sir Robert Borden was aware, through his experience with the department over which he presided, of the difficulty of carrying on negotiations on various important Canadian matters through that channel. He had the advice of his Deputy Minister, Sir Joseph Pope, who from time to time, for twenty-five years had been obliged to go to the British Embassy at Washington to discuss Canadian affairs. He could not entrust most of his mandates to the Ambassador himself. The Ambassador appointed one of his attachés from London to represent Canada, and Sir Joseph had to give him a few lessons in geography and explain to him the details of the record. While the attaché was a brilliant young man and did his best, he knew little of Canada, never having set foot in this country. After corresponding with him for a time, and before the mandate was carried out, Sir Joseph would find that that young attaché had been transferred to another embassy, and the correspondence would cease. Then Sir Joseph would have to journey again to Washington and begin over again to post another young

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attaché on Canadian affairs, giving him a few lessons in geography, handing him a brief and sending him along with it.

I heard Mr. James Bryce, subsequently Lord Bryce, and Sir Esme Howard more than once, state publicly that nine-tenths of the questions which came before them in the Embassy at Washington were Canadian questions. I ask any member of this Chamber, was not Sir Robert Borden, in view of these facts, justified in deciding, with his Cabinet—and a number of his colleagues of that time are now within sound of my voice—that Canada should have an official representative to deal with these important matters? As Sir Robert Borden saw the situation I see it myself, and the Government of which I am a member has felt the same need.

It may be said that we were in no hurry about appointing a representative. The difficulty was to decide upon a man who possessed the necessary qualifications. Up to this time we have had no diplomatic service. Now that we are opening two or three legations, we shall have to prepare young men to enter that field. I hope our representatives will be selected with care and equipped with such knowledge of international law as will enable them to follow a fruitful career in diplomacy in the years to come.

As to the policy of Canada in international affairs, at Geneva and elsewhere, I hope that this country will stand by the gospel of arbitration. It is the only solution for the settlement of differences between nations, if force or warfare is to be eliminated. I was happy to observe a New Year message from Lord Cecil in which he drew attention to the position taken by Canada in 1925, when it informed the Secretary of the League of Nations that Canada, though unable to accept the Protocol, was prepared to consider the compulsory jurisdiction of the Permanent Court of International Justice in legal disputes, subject to certain reservations, and also to study the means whereby the Covenant might be supplemented with a view to the settlement of non-legal disputes, excluding naturally the decision of internal questions. Lord Robert Cecil, sending his message to the League of Nations Society in Canada, which is so ably presided over by my right honourable friend the junior member for Ottawa (Right Hon. Sir George E. Foster), made this comment upon the policy of Canada in the League of Nations, as outlined in that cablegram signed by the Prime Minister of Canada in 1925:

That is a wonderful lead to have given the Empire, and it is very heartening to those who like to believe that the Empire stands pre-eminently for peace.