

the debate by adumbrating some fresh move in the direction of improving our Imperial machinery. I haven't heard what he has in mind. This part of his speech does however suggest that he has already learned that something is wrong; so the Lausanne affair may not be all loss.

How at once fascinating and exasperating the Empire is as a potential problem! One can talk forever on it. I'll try to close up this exercise in verbosity right away! -and one can find material for almost any argument. On the other hand the Dominions may look on themselves as being the only western countries where the answers to these fundamental questions of national life and status are not settled and taken universally for granted. The existence of the uncertainty and controversy consumes much time and mental energy that would otherwise be applied to social problems of immediate urgency; often indeed it cuts across the consideration of these latter problems and perhaps bedevils them. I often wonder whether a citizen of Mars would not conclude that however great the fascination, it is a somewhat expensive luxury." (1)

#### Locarno Treaty

When the Locarno Treaty was under discussion, Christie kept his friends in Canada informed of his views which, as usual, came to circle round the position of Canada in the Empire. He wrote ad lib, saying in one letter to Meighen on December 18, 1924: "Your comments I fear will stimulate my verbosity, for the space between us puts you at my mercy and you cannot stop me, while you must have the common decency to read on till you find my signature!" (2)

The implications of the Locarno Treaty for Canada puzzled some of the statesmen in Canada, for while it purported to afford a certain system of security in Europe, it contained some implications of Dominion

(1) Borden Papers, Folder 58. Correspondence with Christie (1) (148084). L.C.

(2) Meighen Papers, Vol. 55. File 28. L.C. Christie.