

nations should be made by the Governments concerned, they provided that the nominations should be made by the national groups, members of the Court of Arbitration constituted under the Convention for the pacific settlement of international disputes signed at the Hague, October, 1907. You will recall that under that Convention, each contracting power was to select four persons of known competency in questions of international law, of the highest moral reputation and disposed to accept the duties of arbitrator. The persons so selected were thereby constituted members of the Court, from which arbitrators might be selected from time to time by States desiring to resort to the Hague Tribunal for settlement of their disputes.

At the time this Convention was signed the British Dominions had not attained the national status or received the international recognition which they now enjoy and the United Kingdom was the only contracting party representing the British Empire. If the scheme as recommended by the jurists and approved by the Council had been adopted by the Assembly, the Dominions would have had no right to nominate persons for election as judges of the Court.

This was a position which Canada and the other Dominions felt they could not accept. They were members of the League, possessing exactly the same status and rights as every other member, and were entitled to exactly the same privileges of nomination as other members of the League. The justice of this view was recognized by the Assembly and the plan was, therefore, amended so as to give the Dominions the same right of nomination as other members of the League. The indirect method of nomination was, however, retained, and the Dominions will be required to nominate national groups under the same conditions as prescribed for members of the Permanent Court of Arbitration by Article 44 of the Convention of the Hague of 1907, and the national groups thus constituted will make the nominations to the Assembly.

Under the scheme as originally framed it was also provided that not more than one person of any nationality should be elected as a member of the Court. As we have an Imperial nationality, embracing the whole Empire, it might be contended that