

also I accompanied Mr. Lapointe, who was leading the Canadian delegation; and when we arrived in Geneva we discovered that there were three nations represented, the British empire, the United States and Japan. The first morning the leading delegate from Ireland, Mr. O'Higgins, who during that same conference was murdered while on a trip to Ireland, called Mr. Lapointe and asked him whether at the next meeting of the empire delegation, in the afternoon, he would take steps to have this situation rectified. That afternoon we were told all that had happened at the conference before our arrival. This information was given by the first lord of the admiralty, and dealt with complicated technical matters of naval armament and so on. When this was over and Mr. Bridgeman asked whether any dominion delegate had a question to ask, Mr. Lapointe replied, "No, I have no question, because I do not think I have been invited here. I am here with a letter from the king appointing me his representative for Canada, yet I do not see the name of Canada anywhere at this conference, so I must have come to the wrong meeting." He had barely made the statement when Lord Robert Cecil, another British delegate, said, "Mr. Lapointe is perfectly right. These gentlemen of the admiralty and the dominions office are much slower to perceive changes in imperial relations. This state of affairs will be changed by to-morrow." From the next day all the letter-heads and papers concerning the conference were reprinted and redrafted to include seven nations, Australia, Canada and so on. As Lord Robert Cecil said, it takes time to have these changes understood by certain people.

I am taking more time on this portion of my remarks than I had planned. Let us come to the start of the present war. Canada's participation was the outcome of the will of the nation, as expressed by parliament. People may have different opinions as to the advisability of this or that step in the prosecution of the war, but no one can say that any decision arrived at by the government or by parliament was not the decision of a nation acting of its own free will and taking a stand approved by the majority of its people. I for one have been a strong opponent of certain measures; and since I have never been a blind follower I have expressed myself in no uncertain terms. But that does not prevent me from acknowledging the fact that our declaration of war was in no way brought about by the subjection of Canada to any other power. Rather it was brought about by the opinion of the people at large. That the relationship of a majority of our population to parent stock in the British isles was the dominant factor in the deter-

mination of our people to declare war at a time more than actual danger to this country was evident; but it is also evident that the solidarity of the democratic nations in which Canada participated at the beginning of the war was one of the factors that made it possible to stem the onrushing tide of German domination. That our people chose the right way and acted in their own eventual interests should be clearly perceived by all except those who are deeply prejudiced. The fact is that Canada acted as a sovereign nation; and as an outcome of the role it has willingly played it is now called upon, together with the other democratic nations of the world, to participate in the San Francisco conference and to study proposals for a world security organization.

Canada's position in international affairs has been greatly enhanced since the days of Laurier and Borden. As I pointed out in connection with the conference of 1926 the present Prime Minister, who has accomplished so much for the advancement of the country in this as in the social field, for many years had the support of a son of the other great race, Right Hon. Ernest Lapointe, who ably and faithfully assisted him over a long span of their political life. Their work in the conferences of the commonwealth; Canada's role in the present war; the Prime Minister's present activities among the leaders of the great democracies, and in particular his intimate connection with President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill, have contributed greatly to the recognition of Canada as one of the forces to be counted upon in the shaping of a postwar organization. Year after year Canada's ministers and ambassadors have been accredited to an ever-increasing number of nations, and have helped make our country better known abroad. Here in Ottawa a number of competent men are following and interpreting world events, helping to shape Canada's role in the international field. Canada's representatives at the forthcoming conference will be greeted as those of a nation that has accomplished much for humanity in the last five years, after coming a long way from its colonial days to its present honoured position in the world.

When he introduced the resolution now before the house the Prime Minister has once more shown his keen devotion to democratic customs, and has followed the practice he advocated in this house twenty-five years ago, during his first session as leader of the Liberal party. At that time he said, at page 465 of *Hansard* for March 16, 1920:

Mr. Speaker, let me repeat, we on this side of the house are strongly in favour of democratic control of all these matters of foreign