

representation in the League in order that one of the many objections urged by some members of the United States Senate to the ratification of the treaty may be removed? To that question there is only one possible reply, and that is, a dignified but unequivocal, No.

May I briefly restate the reasons why this should be Canada's attitude. The United States Senate has by a majority approved fourteen reservations to the treaty, commonly known as the Lodge reservations; some of them are mere interpretations of the treaty, others are more substantial, but the one which is of special interest and importance to us is No. 14, commonly known as the Lenroot reservation; under this the position of Canada and the other self-governing Dominions in the League of Nations is challenged. The following is the text of the reservation:

The United States assumes no obligation to be bound by any election, decision, report or finding of the Council or Assembly in which any member of the league and its self-governing Dominions, colonies, or parts of Empire in the aggregate have cast more than one vote, and assume no obligation to be bound by any decision, report or finding of the Council or Assembly arising out of any dispute between the United States and any member of the league, if such member or any self-governing Dominion, colony, Empire, or part of Empire united with it politically has voted.

If Canada has no right to distinctive membership or a voice or vote in the League she has no right to distinctive membership or a voice in the International Labour Organization; and although the Lenroot reservation deals specifically with the League of Nations, it challenges Canada's position also in the International Labour Organization.

This reservation deals with two distinct matters; (1) the general voting rights of the Dominions in the League and (2) the position of the Dominions in case a dispute should arise likely to lead to a rupture between the United States and any portion of the

British Empire. May I say in passing that the question of the votes in the Assembly has been magnified out of all proportion to its relative importance. Anyone who understands the principles and spirit of the League will at once recognize that no question of vital importance ever will be decided by a vote. The importance to Canada is not the question of a balancing of votes; it is a question of our national status and our right to participate in this Assembly representing the family of nations.

Dealing with the second part of the Lenroot reservation, it is said if a dispute should arise between Great Britain and the United States which would be likely to lead to a rupture, and this were referred by the Council to the Assembly under Article 15 of the Covenant, that while Great Britain and the United States would be excluded as parties in interest, Canada would have the right to vote. I do not so read the covenant. Canada owes allegiance to the same sovereign as Great Britain and so long as she continues to do so she would be a party in interest and disentitled to vote. If she disclaimed interest and claimed the right to vote she would thereby proclaim her independence, and this she will never do. Therefore in such a dispute the United States could not possibly be prejudiced. This part of the reservation need not give us particular concern. It is the first part of the Lenroot reservation which challenges the position of Canada and the other Dominions in the League, and is clearly contrary to the express terms of the treaty. One cannot but think that such a contention must be due to a misunderstanding of our constitutional position in the British Empire and of Canada's attitude on international questions or to a lack of appreciation of Canada's part in the war.

Canada is entitled to membership in the League of Nations and to a vote in the Assembly; (1) because she is a free self-governing nation, one of the nations of the Britannic Common-