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A Representative at Washington

REPORTS from Ottawa, which we are glad to know are not official, state that it is the intention of the Government to provide for the appointment of a Canadian Commissioner at Washington at a very large salary; \$25,000 is mentioned. There is a disposition at Ottawa — which calls for watching by the advocates of economy — to multiply offices. The Cabinet, already very large, is being increased by additional portfolios. This Washington idea is along the same line. Unless there are new and undisclosed reasons for it, the appointment of a Commissioner at Washington is one of the things that can well be laid aside.

A Canadian Commissioner at Washington would necessarily be a subordinate of the British Ambassador. Where the Ambassador is as amiable as Lord Bryce or Sir Cecil Spring Rice perhaps no friction would arise. But it is not safe to assume that British and Canadian interests will always be served at the American capital by such pleasant officials as the late and present Ambassadors of Great Britain. The National status that Canada has gained in late years will go far to ensure respectful consideration from all Imperial officials. Nevertheless, the relations that would be created by the appointment of a Canadian Commissioner would be a standing temptation to dispute with the Ambassador or his English staff.

There is, however, a stronger reason against the appointment of a Canadian representative at Washington. The Commissioner, as an official of the Canadian Government, would be by no means in as good a position to act for Canada as a Canadian Minister would be, fresh from consultation with his colleagues at Ottawa. Washington is but a few hours' journey from Ottawa. Whenever a question of real importance arises, it is easy for a Minister to go to the American capital. A Minister so visiting Washington would have an authority and influence much greater than that possessed by any Canadian residing there. Unless there are some reasons new and undisclosed to support the move the proposal to have a resident Canadian Commissioner at Washington should be dropped.

"Win the War" Candidates

THE Union Government movement does not, in the eyes of sensible men, gain any strength from the announcements so often made nowadays that somebody has been or is to be nominated as a "Win the war candidate". The phrase is foolish, offensive, and grossly misleading. If the announcements of such nominations reach the German lines they will af-

ford much aid and comfort to the enemy, for they clearly convey an intimation that the Canadian people are divided into two parties, one desiring to win the war and one desiring to lose it, a piece of news that may well be part of a situation that encourages the Kaiser and his advisers to persist in the conflict. It is a pity that what to so many people is a good cause has to be supported — if the word can be correctly used — by such foolish methods. There is nobody in Canada, outside of the internment camps or of possible German spies who have not yet been rounded up, who is not as sincerely desirous as his neighbor to win the war. There are differences of opinion as to the best methods of accomplishing the purpose. Some of our fellow citizens have views which do not commend themselves to our judgment. But the questions on which these differences arise are legitimate subjects for free discussion in a democratic country. There is no reason why any man should assume for himself and his political associates a monopoly of the patriotism of the country. Such action smacks too much of the flag-waving, "no truck or trade with the Yankees," policy of not very long ago. The candidate who to win votes resorts to such clap-trap will not strengthen himself among fair minded men.

The Speakership

A PROPOSAL has been made that the Canadian House of Commons adopt the English custom of treating the office of Speaker as a permanent one. It has been suggested that by common consent the Speaker of the late House, a gentleman much respected by both sides of the House, be accepted as Speaker of the House soon to be elected. The Opposition leader, it is stated, has not been able to concur in the proposal.

As we look to the Imperial legislature — the Mother of Parliaments — for example and guidance in many things, it is not surprising that there should be, in the minds of many, a readiness to respond to the suggestion that the British practice respecting the Speakership be adopted here. But the conditions under which the office is filled are different in Canada from those which prevail in England. It is very doubtful if the British practice can be adapted to the Canadian situation.

There are some unwritten laws in Canada in relation to public affairs, laws which arise from geographical, racial and religious divisions. Such laws are practically non-existent in Great Britain, a small and compact country, where the mass of the population are of one race and one faith. Of course we shall be told that such laws should not be recognized — that they tend to separate our people and perpetuate divisions that ought not to exist. This view has much to commend it. But it