

Imperial Government, although frequently the procedure approximated to that used for commercial agreements or conventions. The Colonial Office and the Foreign Office retained the overriding authority and responsibility, and on both the British and Canadian sides this was accepted because the British had the experience and the diplomatic machinery, and the Canadians, generally speaking, did not.

This centralization of the system remained basic until 1926. As late as 1921, Mr. Lloyd George described it in the following terms in the British House of Commons on December 14:

The machinery is the machinery of the British Government - the Foreign Office, the Ambassadors. The machinery must remain here. It is impossible that it could be otherwise, unless you had a Council of Empire, with representatives elected for the purpose. Apart from that, you must act through one instrument. The instrument of the foreign policy of the Empire is <sup>the</sup> British Foreign Office. That has been accepted by all the Dominions as inevitable.

In a series of articles published in The Times of February 2-6, 1925, this position was again outlined:

Great Britain is in a special position for another reason. Her political traditions enshrine the experience of international dealing of many centuries. She possesses an excellent and world-wide diplomatic service, and her people contain an extraordinary percentage of ex-Ambassadors, Governors, High Commissioners, and other public officials, who have had first-hand experience in all parts of the globe, and who spend their time in educating the public opinion of their country about the outside world, in Parliament, through the Press, from the platform. Great Britain has external interests, and a nervous system which probably keeps her in closer touch with world affairs than any other country in the world.

The position of the Dominions is entirely different. Until the World War, none of them had any direct experience of an international kind.