

governing Dominions as well as by British Ministers. They were all equally plenipotentiaries of H.M. the King, who was the "High Contracting Party" for the whole Empire.

This procedure illustrates the new constitution of the Empire, which has been gradually growing up for many years past. The United Kingdom and the Dominions are partner nations; not yet, indeed, of equal power, but for good and all of equal status. A time may come when one or more of these Dominions will equal or even surpass the United Kingdom in wealth and population, as they already surpass it in geographical extent.

While this change in our constitutional position was clearly recognized by Great Britain and the other portions of the Empire before the meeting of the Peace Conference in Paris, it was not until the meeting of the Conference that this change was recognized by the other nations of the world. If some outside our borders have been slow to appreciate its significance, it may be due to the fact that the British Empire, as now constituted, is something new in human history. It is a constitutional experiment in free democratic government for which there is no precedent, and if it succeeds, as we confidently anticipate it will, it will express the greatest triumph of the Anglo-Saxon genius in the realm of government. The British Commonwealth is itself a league of nations.

The participation of Canada and the other Dominions in the Peace Conference was naturally and inevitably followed by the recognition of the right of Canada and the other Dominions to become members of the League of Nations with all the rights, privileges and obligations of membership.

Since the signing of the Treaty the position of Canada and the other Dominions in the League has been challenged in the United States and their right to a vote has been denied. Canada initiated the movement which resulted in the representation of the Dominions in the League and she accepts full responsibility for all the consequences of such action. We confident-

ly submit there is absolutely no just ground for opposition to the treaty on this score.

Let me remind you that there are no less than seventeen other American nations named in the treaty either as members of the League or as neutrals who are entitled to become members and not one of these has raised any objection to the participation of Canada or the other Dominions. I would go further and in view of the experience gained at the Washington Conference, would say that I believe everyone of these nations not only recognized Canada's right to representation, but would welcome Canada's presence in the League. No other nation in America, and no nation in Europe, Asia or Africa, has offered objection, from which we are justified in concluding that in the opinion of men of all races Canada is entitled to the position granted to her in the League of Nations. I do not believe that any nation will finally deny to Canada the right won for her by her sons on the field of battle and un-animously accorded to her by the Peace Conference at Paris.

The members of the United States Senate who supported the Administration recognized the right of the Dominion and supported the treaty as submitted to the Senate. The Republican minority on the Committee of Foreign Relations in the report presented to the Senate by Senator McCumber, strongly supported the right of the Dominion to representation and to a vote in the Assembly and pointed out that the United States, in view of her relation to Panama, Cuba and the Central and South American States was not in a position to question the votes in the Assembly of the self-governing Dominions of the British Empire.

The treaty has been ratified and is now in effect and the status of the Dominion members has been definitely and finally established. Stripped of all diplomatic verbiage, therefore, the question which we face is, shall the Dominion be forced out of distinctive