

WHAT OF CANADA?

President for the second time, Britain proudly held her blood-red banner with its long story of honour,

The flag that braved a thousand years,
The battle and the breeze;

France exulted in her tricolor but little more than a century old but a century of glory; Italy her flag still younger but not less loved.

The smaller nations were not shut out from this great covenant; Canada and Australia and New Zealand and South Africa whose representatives had sat in council to determine the Treaty became signatories and parties to the League.¹

Nation after nation approved the action of their representatives, Canada approved with others—but two nations there were which stood out, the United States and Venezuela.

I have not the slightest inclination, or the slightest intention to find fault with this conduct on the part of the United States. I am a Canadian, not an American, and it would be an impudent assumption for me to criticize anything this people chooses to do; you know your own business, are perfectly capable of attending to it and require no advice from an outsider, advice which would be as futile as it would be presumptuous.

Nor do I think that the League of Nations is of such overwhelming, so crucial importance that we should grieve as those without hope over its defeat in the Senate.

It is not the defeat of the Treaty that pains the Canadian, it is something wholly different: it is that the Senate of the United States has said in effect that if Canada has a vote and a voice in the Council of the League, the United States repudiates the action of the Council in advance; that so far as the United States is concerned Canada shall not have the status of a nation.

Cuba in whose affairs the United States may and does

(1) The extraordinary idea seems to prevail in some quarters that it was Britain that demanded that Canada and her sisters should have a place in the League. And it has been asserted that Lloyd George "pulled the wool over the eyes of Woodrow Wilson" in this matter. I have myself been congratulated by an American upon the astuteness of the English Statesman as shown by this victory and I fear that my friend resented my indignation at the suggestion as I the suggestion itself. Nothing can be further from the truth. The Statesmen from London were more than willing that they should speak for the whole British Empire. The Dominions demanded that they should speak for themselves and insisted on the demand.