

who sends out every month a booklet showing the work done by our various trade agents in the capitals of Europe. Why is that not sufficient? This is just dividing Britain's representation, a policy so fatal in peace, and more disastrous in war.

Dear knows where the next legation is going to be. All this is nothing but straight separatism. Had I been in the house when the legation was proposed for Washington, I would have opposed it even though I had been the only one in the house to do so. What had our minister there to do with the contest of the congressional party versus the administrative party?

In regard to foreign affairs, we know that to-day the British ambassadors to Belgium and Holland are right in the centre of the trouble in Europe; they will be immediately affected if war comes, and war may come at any moment. You have to be ready for it; you have to be ready to meet these dictators. Are we to continue this policy of separatism, dividing Britain's representation all over the world? We have seen the result of it in South Africa. We have seen the result of it in Ireland. Those countries are outside the empire altogether. Ireland proposes to appoint a president; the Irish will not have "God save the King." For our part, we continue this separatist movement and increase these votes every year. I do not know why we belong to the British Empire. The British ambassador to the Hague and Belgium was good enough to look after Canadian interests in the Low Countries for four and a half years, during the war; he also looked after our expeditionary force without any trouble to us.

What do we see happening in this country? Germany had only invaded Austria the day before when, according to the Montreal papers, she hauled down the Austrian flag and put up the German flag over the consulate there. We have gone far enough in getting out of the empire. Let us turn attention to our own country and our domestic affairs. With the trouble we are having in Canada at the present time, with the difficulties our people find in making a living, we should close up these embassies—I would shut up every one of them—and return to the old system of depending on the British Empire and the mother country, not only for diplomatic representation but for an army, air force and fleet to protect our shores.

We are going to provide this new legation this first year with a whole lot of secretaries. I do not know how many there will be. They generally have a first secretary and a second secretary and a third secretary, and a fourth

[Mr. Church.]

secretary with another degree—that is, he has one more degree than the other gentlemen secretaries from the same or other university—and I suppose they will sit there right in the centre where the trouble is, in Belgium, and study international law. I suppose this policy will extend to Russia, then to Italy; next it will cover the Black sea and we shall find these legations all over the seven seas and the civilized world. But what are they doing? They have large staffs and visitors from all parts of the world, from north and south, from east and west. It seems to me that we are taking on the airs of a nation, while we are doing nothing but sponging on the mother country for protection. We may open up all the agencies we like, but the fact remains that we are not a nation. See what happened in our dealings with Italy. We got into trouble there with passing sanctions, and we had to cancel the sanctions as soon as or shortly after they were passed. We have a minister to Japan. What is he doing there?

These legations were started when the first one was established in Washington; then the policy was extended to France; then someone said that we ought to cross the Pacific, and there was a proposal that we should also have legations in Japan and China. I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that there is altogether too much interference and too much of an attempt to divide Britain's authority. This is not only fatal in times of peace, but will be absolutely destructive in war. It is having a disruptive effect in Europe at the present time. What both Canada and Britain need to-day is a foreign minister like that great man of a hundred years ago, George Canning, to keep the empire out of trouble and out of Europe.

The United States since George Washington's day will not interfere in European affairs, and it seems to me absurd for us to be establishing a legation in Belgium and Holland at the present time. Belgium is under the protection of two great powers, which have armies and fleets. She is in the danger zone, and what are we doing? We are going over there over the head of the British parliament and are appointing a minister to Belgium. In other words, we are saying that we are not satisfied with the British ambassador. We are satisfied enough while a war is on to have the British ambassador act for us, but now we want our own ambassador. I have no doubt that the next thing will be the establishment of something like Canada house, costing two and a half millions, and they will probably have a Canadian flag flying over the legation, while inside the doors you will find brass railings and fittings and