

Commissioner in London, and a Commissioner General in Paris. These representatives had no full diplomatic powers, and normally were appointees of the Dominion only with the consent of the British authorities, but they were in direct communication with Ottawa, and were the forerunners of Dominion diplomatic representatives abroad. Macdonald, Thompson, Tupper and Laurier, as Prime Ministers, went themselves as co-negotiators, and in other cases they sent Cabinet Ministers to negotiate and occasionally counter-sign agreements.

Canada had also attained a limited right to enter into relations with foreign countries, notably in the negotiation of commercial treaties. Early in colonial history such treaties were concluded solely by agents of the Imperial Government; later, representatives from the Dominion were used as advisers to the British officials; and still later, Canadian representatives were appointed plenipotentiaries along with the British diplomatic agents. It was not long before Canadian plenipotentiaries began to play the dominant role, and, for example, in the Canadian-French Treaty of 1907 the Canadian representatives, with the consent of the Foreign Office, carried on all negotiations and the British Ambassador signed the agreement as a mere formality. In the same year, Canadian envoys went to Japan and, under the eye of the British Ambassador in Tokyo, negotiated a Canadian-Japanese immigration agreement or modus operandi with the Tokyo Government.

The power to make political treaties with foreign governments was still guarded much more jealously by the