

but with very little success, to judge by the substance of the debate. By September 4th, the Senate, and by September 11th the Commons, had passed the resolution approving the Treaty of Versailles, and little comment was made on the subsequent treaties as the same procedure was followed by each in turn".⁽¹⁾

In another passage, Glazebrook remarks:

"Throughout the generations parliament had indeed spent a good deal of time in deliberating on certain aspects of external relations, and more than once a question of commercial policy had been decisive in elections. Yet it was a far cry from reciprocity or the progress of autonomy to the point of view of a legislature responsible for passing on decisions on high policy, and keeping an eye on the independent place of the country in relation to the world scene. Despite their length, the debates in the Commons on the Treaty of Versailles show little evidence either of knowledge of the subject or appreciation of the advantages and obligations involved. The minister completely failed to dissipate the atmosphere of an academic debating society."⁽²⁾

Moreover, there was in the decade or so following the end of the First World War, a general lassitude and isolationism in Canada as well as in the United States; and this public indifference toward European and distant foreign affairs was

⁽¹⁾ Glazebrook: A History of Canadian External Relations, p.364.

⁽²⁾ Ibid. p.346.