

In regard to the first paragraph of the above, the 14th resolution of the Conference of 1921 stated that "having regard to the constitutional developments since 1917, no advantage is to be gained by holding a constitutional Conference." This sentence had reference to the consultation of the Dominions in regard to the terms of peace and their membership in the League of Nations. On Oct. 29, 1918, the question of representation of the Dominions in the peace negotiations was raised by the Prime Minister of Canada in a despatch to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The Imperial War Cabinet eventually accepted the proposal, but when the question came before the Peace Conference at Paris on January 12, 1919, strong opposition was encountered, which was finally overcome. Through a combination of the panel system, by which the representatives of the British Empire might be selected from day to day as the nature of the subject demanded, with distinctive representation of each Dominion, the Dominions secured effective representation, and took no inconsiderable part in the Conference.

As a natural development of this representation came the signature by the Dominion plenipotentiaries of the various treaties concluded at the Conference, the submission of these treaties for the approval of the Dominion Parliaments, and the appearance of the Dominions as Signatory Powers. Further, the Dominions claimed that they should be accepted as members of the new League of Nations, and represented on its Council and Assembly. This claim was finally accepted, and the status of the Dominions as to membership and representation in the Assembly is precisely the same as that of other signatory members. As to representation on the Council, the Prime Minister of Canada obtained from President Wilson and Messrs. Clemenceau and Lloyd George, a signed declaration that "upon the true construction of the first and second paragraphs of that Article, representatives of the self-governing Dominions of the British Empire may be selected or named as members of the Council." At the first Assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva, from Nov. 15 to Dec. 18, 1920, Canada was represented by the Rt. Hon. Sir Geo. E. Foster, the Rt. Hon. Chas. Jos. Doherty and Hon. N. W. Rowell, the first of whom acted as a Vice-President of the Assembly.¹

The participation of Canada in the Peace Treaty and in the League of Nations made it necessary for an official definition of Canadian nationals and Canadian nationality to be made, since among different measures adopted in connection with the operations of the League of Nations, were provisions defining certain rights and privileges to be enjoyed by the nationals of members of the League. A Canadian national was accordingly defined by 11-12 George V, chap. 4, as: (a) any British subject who is a Canadian citizen² within the meaning of The Immigration Act, chapter 27 of the Statutes of 1910, as heretofore amended; (b) the wife of any such person; (c) any person born out of Canada, whose father was a Canadian national at the time of that person's birth, or with regard to persons born before the passing of this Act, any person whose father at the time of such birth, possessed all the qualifications of a Canadian national as defined in this Act. In the debates on this Act it was thoroughly established that its effect was not in any way to supersede the term "British subject," but to create a sub-class of "Canadian nationals" within "British subjects."

¹An account of the proceedings of this first Parliament of the Nations was given on pages 738 to 742 of the 1920 edition of the Year Book.

²According to the Immigration Act, 1910, a "Canadian citizen" is

(i) a person born in Canada who has not become an alien;
 (ii) a British subject who has Canadian domicile;
 (iii) a person naturalized under the laws of Canada who has not subsequently become an alien or lost Canadian domicile.