

A similar advance toward recognition of the existence of a Canadian nation is to be found in the gradual tendency toward direct negotiation instead of negotiation through London with the diplomatic or consular representatives of other powers. For many years the consuls-general of other countries at Ottawa or Montreal, more especially the consuls-general of the United States, Japan, Italy and Germany, discharged diplomatic or semi-diplomatic functions in Canada, and Sir Wilfred Laurier in 1910 considered that while "this has been done without authority and is contrary to the rules that apply among civilized nations, it became a necessity because of the development of the larger colonies of the British Empire, which have become practically nations." Further, Mr. Blake in 1882, Sir Richard Cartwright in 1889, and Mr. Mills in 1892 moved resolutions in favour of Canadian diplomatic representation at Washington, emphasizing the fact that a Canadian diplomatic representative would be an envoy of the Queen, that he would act in co-operation with the British Ambassador at Washington, that he would be in direct communication with the Government of Canada, to whom he would be responsible, and that the growing importance of Canada's relations with the United States made such an appointment desirable. While at that time these proposals were regarded as premature, in 1918, when Canada and the United States were both devoting their energies to the great struggle against a common foe, it was found necessary to establish a Canadian War Mission at Washington, which in effect, though not in form, was a diplomatic mission. This brought to a head the question of Canadian diplomatic representation at Washington; the authorities in London were consulted, with the result that on May 10, 1920, it was announced to Parliament that "it has been agreed that his Majesty on advice of his Canadian ministers, shall appoint a Minister Plenipotentiary who will have charge of Canadian affairs and will at all times be the ordinary channel of communication with the United States Government in matters of purely Canadian concern, acting upon instructions from, and reporting direct to the Canadian Government. In the absence of the Ambassador, the Canadian Minister will take charge of the whole embassy and of the representation of Imperial as well as Canadian interests. He will be accredited by His Majesty to the President with the necessary powers for the purpose. This new arrangement will not denote any departure either on the part of the British Government or of the Canadian Government from the principle of the diplomatic unity of the British Empire." The principle involved in this arrangement had, as a matter of fact, already been accepted in the appointment of the International Joint Commission. Up to October, 1923, however, no Canadian Minister to Washington had been appointed.

Negotiation of Treaties.—The right to negotiate commercial and other treaties has been developing almost from the beginning. In 1871, the Prime Minister of Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald, became one of the British commissioners acting under instructions from the British Government, at the conference that resulted in the Treaty of Washington. This dual function, however, he found a very difficult one. In 1874, Hon. Geo. Brown was associated with the British Minister at Washington for the purpose of negotiating a commercial treaty between Canada and the United States. In 1878, Sir A. T. Galt, later High Commissioner, was commissioned to undertake negotiations with France and Spain for better commercial relations, these negotiations, however, to be conducted by the British Ambassador. In 1884, the High Commissioner for Canada, Sir Charles Tupper, in conjunction with the British Ambassador to Spain, was given full powers to conduct negotiations for a commercial treaty between Canada and Spain, the