

negotiations to be conducted by Sir Charles Tupper and the convention to be signed by both plenipotentiaries. In 1891, the Canadian Parliament petitioned for the denunciation of the commercial treaties with the German Zollverein and Belgium, which prevented Canada from extending preferential treatment to British products. The Canadian tariff of 1897 provided for the grant of preferential treatment to British goods, and at the Colonial Conference of that year, the Premiers of the self-governing colonies unanimously recommended "the denunciation at the earliest convenient time of any treaties which now hamper the commercial relations between Great Britain and her colonies." The treaties were accordingly denounced. In 1907, Mr. Fielding and Mr. Brodeur negotiated a commercial convention between Canada and France, and in 1911, the negotiations regarding reciprocity with the United States were carried on directly between the Government of Canada and the government of the United States. In 1914, the Arbitration Treaty concluded between the British Empire and the United States, made provision that in case the British interests affected were mainly those of some one or other of the self-governing Dominions, the minister of the International Commission of Arbitration chosen from the British Empire might be selected from the Dominion principally interested. In December, 1918, commissioners were appointed by Canada and the United States to make a joint inquiry into fisheries questions arising between the two countries. As a result, a treaty looking to the preservation of the Pacific coast fisheries was signed by the Commissioners, but failed to secure ratification by the United States Senate.

**Defence.**—As early as 1862 the Government of Canada, following British precedents, successfully asserted the principle that the raising and maintenance of Canadian military forces were subject to the absolute control of the representatives of the Canadian people. During the South African war, the last of the British garrisons was temporarily, and in 1905, permanently withdrawn and the defence of the naval stations at Halifax and Esquimalt was taken over by the Canadian Permanent Force. When on the outbreak of war in 1914 Canadian forces were sent overseas, an important constitutional question was the sufficiency of Canadian legislation for the control and discipline of the forces when outside the Dominion. However, the Governor in Council is authorized by section 69 of the Militia Act to place the militia on active service beyond Canada for the defence thereof, and by section 4 of the same Act, the Army Act, the King's Regulations and other relevant laws not inconsistent with Canadian enactments have force and effect for the governance of the militia as if enacted by the Parliament of Canada. But the Army Act, in section 177, provides that where a force of militia is raised in a colony, any law of the colony may extend to those belonging to that force, whether within or without the boundaries of the colony. This settled the question of extra-territorial jurisdiction. Another important development was the establishment in London in October, 1916, of a Canadian Ministry of Overseas Military Forces with a resident Minister. In course of time this became an Overseas Canadian War Office, with an adequate staff and a systematic arrangement of branches, administering the Canadian forces as a thoroughly autonomous body, under the primary direction of the Overseas Ministry, but finally responsible to the Canadian Parliament.

**Immigration.**—Though provinces may legislate in the matter of immigration, their legislation falls to the ground if it is inconsistent with the legislation or with the international obligations of the Dominion. Several Acts of the province of British Columbia restricting immigration have been disallowed on this account.