

of the war as a persuasive factor, the Supreme Council of the Five Great Powers, after some opposition, yielded to the insistent demand. Not only was each of the Dominions represented by one or more delegates, but in the Treaty of Peace a provision was inserted whereby the Dominion representatives were accorded the right to sign separately on behalf of their respective Governments and each Dominion Parliament was recognized as having the right to review the Treaty, precisely as had each of the other contracting parties. This was the first political treaty to contain such provisos. The initiative in securing support of the proposal was taken by the then Prime Minister of Canada, the late Sir Robert Borden.

Having achieved the right of a seat in the Assembly, Canada aspired to membership on the League Council, with respect to which further difficulty was encountered. An official interpretation of Article IV of the Covenant, dated May 6, 1919, removed that obstacle, whereupon it was found that the draft Constitution of the New International Labour Organization, sponsored by the League, excluded the Dominions from representation on the Governing Body. Again, Sir Robert Borden vigorously pressed the demands of Canada and her sister Dominions with final success.

This hard-won status was not maintained without difficulty. The Washington Conference on the Limitation of Armament, 1921, afforded an example. The Dominions were not invited by the Government of the United States to participate, but Great Britain, on receiving an invitation, afforded the Dominions an opportunity to nominate members of the British delegation who might possess expert knowledge of local Dominion problems. Under protest the Dominions acquiesced. By mutual agreement ratification of the resultant treaties was made subject to the consent of the Dominions separately.

That Canada was jealous of her status within the Empire was made very clear in the official correspondence in 1922 where, a revolutionary army in Turkey seeming to threaten Constantinople and Chanak, Great Britain inquired of the Dominions whether, in the event of war, they would send armed forces to the battle front. A difficult situation resulted from a premature release to the British press of the "invitation" to the Dominions. The Canadian Prime Minister took the position that:—

"....before it was possible to have the contents of the cable which had come from London communicated to myself or other members of the Government the press of Canada carried dispatches from Great Britain announcing an invitation by the British Government to Canada to participate in resistance of Turkish forces by sending a contingent. I pointed out that a most embarrassing situation had arisen in consequence, that I was being asked by press representatives if any communication, and if so what communications, had been received from the British Government. As the message from Great Britain had been marked secret and was in cipher, I was not at liberty to disclose its contents. . . . It is the view of the Government that public opinion in Canada would demand authorization on the part of Parliament as a necessary preliminary to the dispatch of any contingent to participate in the conflict in the Near East. The Government is in communication with members of the cabinet at present in Europe as Canada's representatives at the League of Nations, and with the British Government, with a view to ascertaining whether the situation that exists in the Near East is one which would justify the summoning of a special session of Parliament."

The crisis passed, but Canada had made clear its conception of its new status within the Commonwealth. South Africa and Australia similarly protested against not having been consulted earlier with respect to an impending crisis.

At about this time, two illuminating situations developed: one concerning the Halibut Fisheries Treaty regulating fisheries on the Pacific Coast of Canada and the United States, and the other in connection with the Treaty of Lausanne. Canada maintained with respect to the Halibut Treaty that the Canadian representative alone should sign, since the subject matter concerned Canada, and not the Empire