

but the British Government demurred to giving him diplomatic status to negotiate with foreign governments. Dissatisfaction arose, however, from time to time with diplomatic services provided Canada by the Imperial Government and demands were occasionally made for separate diplomatic representation. In 1882, for example, the Honourable Edward Blake moved a resolution in the House of Commons in favour of Canadian diplomatic representation at Washington, and similar motions were made by Sir Richard Cartwright in 1889 and by the Honourable David Mills in 1892; but these resolutions were regarded as premature. Prior to the War of 1914-18 the practice of separate representation for Canada and other Dominions at international Conferences on technical matters had developed but not for Conferences dealing with political matters. At the Peace Conference it was agreed that Canada and other Dominions should become separate members of the new League of Nations, and should be eligible for membership on the Council on the same terms as the smaller powers.

The appointment of resident diplomatic representatives to foreign countries developed after 1918, though at first with considerable hesitation. In 1918 a Canadian War Mission, in effect a diplomatic mission, was established at Washington but for the period of the War only. In 1920 it was announced to Parliament that agreement had been reached with the British Government for the establishment of a Minister in Washington who would have charge of Canadian affairs and who would at all times be the ordinary channel of communication with the United States Government in matters of purely Canadian concern. The agreement, however, provided that in the absence of the British Ambassador the Canadian Minister would take charge of the British Embassy "and of the representation of Imperial as well as Canadian interests". The intention obviously was to maintain the diplomatic unity of the Empire although providing for special representation of Canadian interests. But no representative was appointed until 1927 and then the earlier arrangement about representing imperial interests in the absence of the British Ambassador was dropped completely, the Canadian Minister representing Canada only. Since 1927 exchange of diplomatic representatives with foreign countries has been widely extended. Prior to the present war legations had been established in France, Japan, Belgium and the Netherlands and in addition Canada maintained a Permanent Delegate to the League of Nations. During the present war many other countries have exchanged or agreed to exchange diplomatic representatives with Canada, among them, China, the U.S.S.R., Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Mexico, Sweden and Turkey. In 1943 a final stage in the development of diplomatic representation was reached when by agreement the Canadian Minister in Washington and the United States Minister in Ottawa were raised to the rank of Ambassador. Similar agreements with other governments quickly followed, notably the Soviet Union, China, Brazil and Belgium.

It should also be observed that relations between members of the British Commonwealth of Nations are now conducted through channels which are in all essentials the same as the diplomatic channels existing between independent countries. As noted previously, a High Commissioner was appointed to Great Britain in 1880, but the United Kingdom did not reciprocate until 1928, when following the restatement of the constitutional position by the Imperial Conference of 1926, the Governor General ceased to be the representative of the United Kingdom Government, although retaining the function of personal representative of His Majesty the King. In the early stages of the present war Canada exchanged High Commissioners with Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa and Eire, while in 1941 a High Commissioner was appointed to Newfoundland.