

initiated this group unity idea.

If we wish to return to a sound basis, it will be necessary for us to go back to Versailles and once more resume our recognition by the Powers of the world, as independent international States. The fear that scared us from following this road of independence, has been an idle fear, But not only idle. Dominated by that fear, we have taken recourse to a preventative against mutual conflict, which to-day proves to be a Nessus shirt, and which will tend more to wreck than to save the Empire.

If we are called upon, in our own interest, to preserve the good and intimate friendly co-operation between the Dominions and Great Britain, we are equally bound to maintain our international independence. There is, however, no reason whatever why the possession and maintenance of the one, should occasion less guarantee for the safe preservation of the other. I maintain that just the reverse is the case. According as the Dominions realise to a greater extent their international obligations, responsibilities and dangers, the feeling of the necessity for closer and more cordial co-operation between the Dominions and Great Britain will grow and convert itself into practice.

I have therefore no doubt that, if we have to return to a sound basis, we can accomplish this only by accepting the doctrine of Dominion independence, based on our rights under the constitution and recognised at Versailles by the Foreign Powers of the World; and by developing on that basis any further relations between Great Britain and the Dominions, so as to give every guarantee that can be expected for permanent co-operation.

In order to act for the future in conformity with this point of view and with full international effect,

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