

occupied a viceregal position in the Dominion of Canada during that time; and for the surrender of some of the privileges of self-government we are at a loss to see what great advantages would be gained. I agree that if some of our public men were sent over here to take part in legislating for the Empire it would broaden their views, and perhaps train them for dealing better with great public questions. That, however, is a matter which we need not discuss at this stage. On the other hand, if we were to be represented at Westminster, we should have to send to you a certain number of our best men, and these we can ill afford to spare. We have not such a large supply of, let me say, legislative timber in our country as to be able to send here many who would worthily represent our country in the House of Commons.

I observe that the Colonial Secretary has suggested the appointment of a permanent Council, to which would be referred matters affecting the Empire as a whole. A permanent Council would, perhaps, serve a useful purpose. There are difficulties about that, however, which occur to me, and which would require serious consideration before we could approve of the suggestion. In the first place, is it to be a nominated Council? I think it must be. It could not be elected over a large area like the Dominion of Canada. At least our section of it could not. We have an electorate of one million, and if we had to elect two or three members of that Council how we could do so by the vote of our people is a problem the solution of which I do not see just now. Besides, such a permanent Council, if established, could not have legislative power. It would be an advisory Council merely, and in that respect it would be very useful, perhaps, but I think a body like this, an *imperium in imperio*, even if it had not legislative power, would be rather alarming to us in Canada, and therefore I am driven to the conclusion that the Colonial Office have already acted on the best system in convening occasional conferences of Colonial delegates. I speak with the greatest satisfaction of these Conferences. They have been meetings of our best men with some of your best men. They have been meetings where the delegates sat on the friendliest terms with each other, and where they knew, before they met, the subjects that would come up for discussion and had got the public opinion of their country on them. In that way, by mutual conference and confidential discussion, they have been able to adjust some of the difficulties which existed between the Colonies and the