

From this it naturally follows that the mere fact of a person being a "British subject", in the sense of being a possessor of the common status, does not entitle each member of the Commonwealth to claim every possessor of the common status as its national and thus to assume the rights which a state generally has over its own nationals. These rights belong only to that state, member of the Commonwealth, of which the "British" subject is a national and to no other.

It is especially in this field that there is still a lot of confusion of thought, owing to lack of adjustment to the principles now governing the relations of the members of the Commonwealth inter se and therefore it seems appropriate that the opportunity should now be taken to clarify the position.

12. Closely related to the real meaning which underlies the concept of "common status" and possibly the cause of much of the ambiguity which at present prevails is the use to which the word "British" is put in the term "British subject".

13. In the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914, of the United Kingdom, and in the kindred legislation of the Dominions which contain the agreed requirements for the acquisition of common status by birth, naturalisation or marriage, the possessors of the common status are referred to as "British subjects". In older legislation they were very often referred to merely as "subjects of the King (Queen)" or "His or Her Majesty's subjects". Of the two names the latter seems to be the more appropriate, for "British" seems to be a qualification, which gives rise to the idea that we are here dealing with subjects of the United Kingdom of Great Britain. That, of course, is not the case. An objection which has, in the past, been levelled more than once against the term "British" subject was, that is completely disregarded the claims of Ireland as part of the "United Kingdom of Great