

EXTRACT FROM ARTICLE  
on  
CANADA'S STATUS & STATUTE OF WESTMINSTER

COMMENT and CRITIQUE

The Statute of Westminster makes no radical alteration of Canada's relationship to the King, or to the Empire. As no mention is made by it of Canada's Nationhood or of her Equality with Britain, the Status of Canada under the B.N.A. Act 1867 remains as it was; and the relationship of the Provinces to the Dominion is preserved intact.

The clarifications and adjustments made by the Act are commendable, but these parts of it are such as could readily have been procured almost at anytime by a representation of their necessity in a proper attitude and spirit. Australia already had most of them. It was the aim of leading British Statesmen for years—men like Lord Balfour, Lord Milner, Campbell-Bennerman—to equip with full autonomy the Dominion Entities of the Empire in harmony with the policy of decentralizing.

But the demands of the past 10 or 12 years in Canada though made, I believe, without ulterior design by the Government were heralded by certain sections of the Press and public as preludes to complete Independence. Every concession at the Conferences since 1923 was represented by these factionaries as advances to that goal. This gave even to desirable reforms a sinister aspect.

THE COMMONWEALTH ILLUSION

Even now, immediately after the passing of the Statute of Westminster, the effect of it is stated to be the disappearance or dissolution of the Empire and the creation of a "Commonwealth of Nations" who are to form an "Economic Union" in July 1932. Here are strange confusions surely. There is nothing in the Statute of Westminster to justify these statements. The Statute assuredly sets up no