

each of the Dominions upon the advice of the appropriate Ministers—in federal affairs, upon the advice of federal Ministers; in provincial and state affairs, upon the advice of provincial and state Ministers. It is the same Crown throughout acting upon the advice of different Ministers. That tie of allegiance to the Crown is the tie which chiefly binds together the Empire today so far as constitutional considerations are concerned.

We sat on alternate days in the Imperial War Cabinet and in the Imperial War Conference. On days when the Imperial War Cabinet did not sit the war did not wait; therefore it was necessary that the British War Cabinet itself should sit on those days to deal with questions arising out of the war. This result, therefore, very early obtained: that the Imperial War Cabinet was differentiated from the British War Cabinet; that the Imperial War Cabinet sat for the purpose of dealing with all matters of common concern to the whole Empire, and the British War Cabinet sat for the purpose of dealing with those matters which chiefly concerned the United Kingdom.

There was for the first time in London an Imperial War Cabinet. But there was more than that. There were two Cabinets advising the Crown, one an Imperial War Cabinet advising the Crown in respect of matters of common Empire concern, and the other a British War Cabinet advising the Crown in respect of matters which chiefly concerned the affairs of the United Kingdom. I do not mean to suggest that this differentiation was absolute; it was carried out as best it could be carried out. I ventured to bring the subject to the attention of the statesmen of the United Kingdom and the people of the Empire in an address which I delivered in London before the Empire Parliamentary Association in the early weeks of my arrival there. The idea has so impressed itself upon the people of the United Kingdom, and upon their statesmen, that at the very last meeting of the Imperial War Cabinet a definite offer was made to the oversea Dominions that this experiment should be continued in the future; that it should develop into a usage and into a convention; and that annually at least, and, if necessity should arise, oftener, there should assemble in London an Imperial Cabinet to deal with matters of common concern to the Empire.

It is perfectly obvious that such a proposal cannot include the large Cabinet to which Great Britain may revert after this war is over. It is idle to speculate or to conjecture as to whether the present system of a very small number of