

affairs and the government of India, the great dependencies and the posts of strategical importance, such as Malta or Gibraltar. They must have, in partnership with the United Kingdom, full control of the Imperial budget, mainspring of Imperial power.

Under the present chaotic system, the Dominions are at the complete mercy of a group of politicians elected by the people of the British Isles. The power to launch them in war is in the hands of these politicians. In fact they are now deeply involved in the most terrific of modern wars, because of the sole action of the British government. If the Dominions persist in staying in that state of willing subserviency, peace will be made above their heads by the same English politicians. "In the bed there made for them, 'not by their own ministers, but by those of England, they will 'have to lie; and whether it is made of thorns or roses is *their* 'interest no less than that of the people of the British Isles.'" Even now, secret negotiations are constantly going on between the British government and foreign powers. Of these the Dominion governments know nothing. "Conditions of the peace are already 'being settled in advance, and without consultation with Dominion 'governments. Their representatives will not be admitted to the 'conference at which that peace is finally made. The plenipotentiary who will go to it will be a minister responsible only to 'the people of the British Isles through the parliament they elect" (p. 113). For his statesmanship, good or bad, he will be answerable only to the electors of the English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish boroughs and counties. Those electors will pass final and exclusive judgment, not only on the conditions of peace made for them, but also upon those affecting Canada and the other dependencies, so derisively called 'sister-nations'.

"In the foreign affairs of this Commonwealth the British have 'retained a monopoly of power close almost as that which Athenians 'wielded in the empire they founded. In matters of peace and 'war it is *literally* closer than that which the Prussians exercise in 'Germany to-day" (p. 217).

Here is one point at least upon which our concocters of catching stock-phrases will hardly make us believe that we are fighting for "democracy against autocracy!"