

approved by Parliament as a whole.¹ I feel I ought to apologize to the House. I have travelled over a great number of subjects in the course of this long review of an intricate subject. I have now only to ask the House to consent to the introduction of this Bill. I hope they will be content subsequently to pass it exactly as it has been introduced.² I am quite certain that no more important measure of legislation has ever been presented to Parliament, and that nothing throughout the whole course of the Queen's reign will be a more beneficent feature in that long and glorious history.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to introduce a Bill to constitute the Commonwealth of Australia."—*Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*

¹ This proposal was ultimately dropped.

² After much discussion the clause as to appeals was finally altered so as to preserve intact the right of the Privy Council to hear appeals from the High Court of the Commonwealth, except in cases in which the constitutional rights of the Commonwealth and the States or the States *inter se* are concerned, in which case the decision of the High Court is final, unless it grants leave to appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. In practice the interpretation of the Commonwealth constitution has thus been carried out by the High Court, while in the case of Canada the final interpretation has been given to the British North America Act by the Privy Council.