

III.

THE ROUND TABLE POSITION

The work of The Round Table Groups up to the present might be described as a great co-operative analysis. It should go on to a serious and open-minded examination of the results.

The joint study of the Groups during the six years which have elapsed since their formation is contained in a series of reports sent out for criticism to these various study circles throughout the Dominion, and in a collation of this criticism which was again distributed to the Groups. Briefly, it may be said that this co-operative study detached four lines of possible Imperial policy:

1. It may be contended that the present status of the Dominions, with all its manifold anomalies and acknowledged defects, should nevertheless be left undisturbed.

2. It may be argued that the Dominions should take their future into their own hands and assume the position of independent states; or, in our own case, ask admission into the United States.

3. The time may have arrived when the Dominions should severally take over the control of their foreign policy, and co-operate to the extent to which they may on each occasion see fit.

4. Finally, some would argue that the principle of confederation, which has successively created the great Dominions, should now be extended to the Empire in so far as the questions of peace and war and foreign policy are concerned.

Whether the government of the dependencies can be detached from the control of the questions of peace and war constitutes another question of great importance.