

CHAP.
XXI

A cut-
and-dried
scheme
imposed
by the in-
separable
connec-
tion of
taxation
and
political
responsi-
bility.

control over those in charge of their foreign affairs. Really to effect that object, the passage, with their approval, of an Act such as that which has been described is the shortest possible step they can take, and it cannot be divided into any series of shorter or easier steps. The Dominions may begin to study their foreign affairs, and with that object in view they may appoint ministers resident in London to attend Imperial Conferences and Defence Committees. Through these Conferences and Committees, through the press and in private interviews with Imperial ministers, they may offer their opinions on foreign affairs. The facilities for doing all these things may be developed and elaborated little by little, and, by improving the machinery of consultation, the people of the Dominions may learn that they really have foreign affairs and what those affairs are. They may also learn that they do not control them, and may recognize the mischief of leaving that control to others. Public opinion, in a word, must be enlightened and can only be instructed and developed by a process of growth. That process has now been greatly accelerated by the events of the war, which have finally proved the vital interest which all these peoples have in the conduct of foreign affairs. But the actual change from a dependence, however carefully disguised and sugared, to responsible government cannot be effected except by a definite and conscious step involving the formulation of a definite scheme. And the reason is obvious. The people of the Dominions can learn to offer advice on their foreign affairs with an ever-increasing freedom: but they can never command nor begin to command the