

but to ordinary diplomatic conferences as well. The most striking example of the admission of this new right, which has been not wholly uncontested by foreign Powers since the War, is furnished by the Coolidge Naval Conference of 1927, a conference pre-eminently political in character, and not summoned by the League.

But the Dominions have not only secured in a wider sphere the application of pre-war precedents. They have gone altogether beyond the pre-war precedents, and have done so in every department of international affairs.

They have acquired, for example, a right of joint consultation with the Mother Country on every important issue of foreign policy that can arise. This was a logical result of the Imperial War Conference Resolution of 1917, but it has been accepted and developed in the most elaborate way. One formal recognition of the right is found in the Report of the Imperial Conference of 1921:

"It was unanimously felt that the policy of the British Empire could not be adequately representative of democratic opinion throughout its peoples unless representatives of the Dominions and of India were frequently associated with those of the United Kingdom in considering and determining the course to be pursued." (1)

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(1) Parliamentary Papers, Cmd. 1474, p. 3.