

ciliatory method was introduced of representations and communications about any Act of the Dominions which might injuriously affect the interests of the Empire or of any important part of it and satisfactory adjustments have usually resulted. It may be urged that the very existence of such sections will cause a Government which passed an offending Act to be more reasonable in repealing or modifying it. The big stick may compel compliance but it does not create harmonious feeling, without which the Empire will fade away. Keith, in his 'Imperial Unity and the Dominions' says:—'It is certain that actual disallowance of laws when passed may be regarded as now obsolete in case of responsible Governments.' If these sections are now inappropriate and obsolete and the method of free interchanging of views and resulting adjustments has become the settled rule, they might be modified accordingly, and a plausible argument would then be taken away from the agitator of separation.

"The unwritten constitutional law or rather constitutional principles and rules expressing the relations between the United Kingdom and Canada and their position in the Empire are not so clearly understood as the provisions of the federating Act touching such relations, for the simple reason that they change as those relations evolve. They must be consonant with political realities. They are somewhat analagous to international law. No dominating state or person declares it. It is founded on consent or agreement, express or tacit. Both are made the rule because the nations wish them to be so. Both have the sanction of the public opinion of the nations interested, sanctions similar to those of a gentleman's agreement, 'good form,' 'in honour bound,' 'moral obligation.'

"Because of the active unfolding of those intra British relations and a miscomprehension of them, judicial interpretation of the conventional laws or rules expressing them is not concordant. In arriving at just decisions, precedent and written law have to be considered, but more especially the present relations, and the treaties, arrangements and practices or usages giving expression to them have to be studied. This is admirably shewn in the remarks of the members of the Privy Council who