

(2) Though not expressed in Lord Robert's memorandum, it is understood that the representative of any smaller Power whose individual interest is under discussion shall be summoned to the Meeting of the Great Powers for the purpose of such discussion. The suggestion made was that a like privilege should be claimed for the British Dominions and India; e.g. if Japan claimed a right of free entry for subjects of the Mikado to Australia, the representative of Australia would be summoned to the Meeting of the Powers convened to deal with the matter.

B. That the Dominions and India should have the right to send their own representatives to the Quadrennial Meeting of representatives of all States included in the League.

It was agreed to meet for the further discussion of these proposals at 3:30 on Friday, 3rd January, at the Foreign Office.

L. CURTIS
(Secretary)

*23. Minutes of Second Meeting of Committee on Position
of Dominions and India in League of Nations*

Present:

London, January 3, 1919

The Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, Chairman
The Rt. Hon. W. Hughes
The Hon. M. [sic] Doherty
The Hon. Sir Satyendra Sinha
The Hon. W. Lloyd

The proposals set forth in the minutes of the previous meeting were considered. Mr. Hughes observed that Australians had hitherto acquiesced in the arrangement which had grown out of the past whereby the British Foreign Minister represented the whole British Commonwealth in diplomatic negotiations with Foreign Powers. If, however, the institution of a League of Nations created a position in which Australians were asked expressly and in terms to designate the British Foreign Minister as the representative of Australia as well as of the rest of the British Commonwealth, in addressing Foreign Powers, he would not answer for the result.

The following amendments in the draft proposals embodied in the minutes were suggested by Lord Robert Cecil:

(1) *On page 1* in the para. marked A: that the first three lines should be altered to read as follows:

That the whole British Commonwealth at the Annual Meeting should be represented by two representatives of the highest ministerial rank, subject to the following provisions . . .