

different parts of the empire. It is the intention, Mr. Speaker, of the government to set apart one day or two days, or longer, if so desired, for the discussion of the proceedings of the conference; meanwhile I wish to assure hon. members of the House that in no particular has the hand of a single member been bound with respect to any matter which appears in the report of the proceedings. The report represents what the representatives assembled in London believed to be was a true statement of the present position. If this parliament takes a different view from that of the representatives of the governments at the Imperial conference, it is quite within the power of parliament so to express itself. I may say to my hon. friend that the government intends to put the report before this House just as it appears, and to recommend its adoption. If my hon. friend has any resolution to offer in amendment, we welcome his amendment, and ask him to debate it with us on the floor of the House. As it stands, however, we believe that this document expresses in the best possible form what is a matter of common opinion and agreement between all parts of the British Empire, and as such we believe that it will help to make for greater concord and greater unity within the empire.

My hon. friend asked who instructed my colleague and myself to go to London and attend an Imperial conference on constitutional questions. I am somewhat surprised that my hon. friend should ask that question, because as I remember it, he and his party were urging as strongly as they could that I should go to the conference; that on no account should I stay away; that if need be, parliament should be put off for some little time to make sure of my presence. That was not an instruction, but I am rather surprised that my hon. friend should now raise any question with respect to the presence of my colleague and myself at the conference. With regard to the agenda, I may say that it was before him during the time he was in office, or rather during the time he was supposed to be in office, and that he had an opportunity of looking it over; it was not altered in any particular after we went to London. My hon. friend also said that we had no mandate. I do not wish to enter upon any controversial point at the moment, but my recollection is that during the period of the general election, there was a good deal of question as to who was to represent Canada at the Imperial conference. I think the results of the election indicated rather decisively the preference of the Canadian people in that regard.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

May I say to my hon. friend that when my colleague the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) and I went to London, we went with a perfectly open mind as to the questions which were to come up at that conference. I am free to admit that neither of us had had much opportunity to study in advance the questions coming before the conference, or to prepare for them. Indeed, if we had consulted our own convenience in the matter, I think we should have greatly preferred not having had to take up the work at such short notice. To make our attitude perfectly clear, I spoke in advance in the city of Quebec with reference to the point of view from which we would approach the issues which were likely to come up at the conference, and my hon. friend has done me the kindness to comment favourably on what was said at that time. I did say that as the representatives of Canada we were going to the conference in a spirit of goodwill towards Great Britain and towards all the dominions which would be represented there; that we had not a single grievance; that we had no particular demands to put forward, but that we were prepared to co-operate to the best of our abilities with the representatives of the other governments concerned. That was the position, so far as Canada was concerned, as I stated it at the conference itself. I made it perfectly clear to all who were there assembled that as between Great Britain and this Dominion there were no difficulties of any kind; that as between Canada and the other dominions there was the greatest friendship, and that so far as the relations of this country with foreign countries were concerned, they were all to the good, as we could see them; that we came there simply to join with our colleagues from other parts of the empire in taking up the questions presented to us in the spirit in which we believed all would wish to have them taken up. We sought to maintain what we believed to be the Canadian point of view, and I contend that this document, as it is presented here, does present the Canadian point of view on the matter of inter-imperial relations. Not only does it represent the Canadian point of view, but I believe it represents the point of view which the mother country and the different dominions hold in common. I will say, however, that I think it was the Dominion of Canada which led the way to that particular point of view. I am not speaking of this particular conference, but of the Canadian point of view as it has been developed over a period of years. This dominion has led the way in the discussion of inter-imperial relations, and Canada's position, which some-