

for in order to grasp them thoroughly I had to spend several months on making an accurate index to them, which you will find at the end of the Annotated Memorandum. As I made that index I realized the overwhelming nature of the task I had undertaken and if you will examine it you will find that it is practically a complete compendium of all the points that can be raised on the Imperial problem. For the first time it really came home to me that I had undertaken to make a survey of a political structure which included a quarter of mankind and which included in that quarter all levels of civilization and races and families of men scattered among countries in every part of the globe. I realized that before anyone could attempt to show what kind of duty was imposed on men who lived in the shelter of this vast and complex state he must first discover and interpret what that state was and for what it stood. I had made a grave miscalculation. Not six months but more like three years was needed for the task I had undertaken, and to accomplish it in that time it was necessary to act less as a draughtsman than as an editor, and to enlist the expert assistance of as many other members of the Round Table as possible. The report, of which two instalments have already been laid before you and of which the remainder will, I hope, be before you within a year from now, is the work not of one but of many hands. The material is for the most part prepared already and needs only to be put into shape and printed, and I have come here now because I am in a position to give you an accurate forecast of what that report will contain. I want to give you that forecast in order that you may consider in advance what course to take when the report has been laid before you. The report is divided into three volumes, and each volume will be sent you in several instal-