

the House of Commons that the Dominions 'liberty and freedom of action are safeguarded specifically under the Treaty'. It is an illusory freedom of action. If the King goes to war tomorrow under the Pact Canada becomes subject to the status of belligerency which means certain limitations on her freedom of action. Her only way to real freedom at that time would be a declaration of independence. This would be desertion at the moment of danger.

X X X X X X

At one time a Special Constitutional Conference was to cure the anomalies. That is gone. The Resolution of 1921 indicated that the Empire would have to wait for science to improve communications - airships, wireless telephone and so on. This seems to recognize the germ of the theory, which now holds the field, that in the field of foreign affairs the world is to be regarded as divided into separate regions in which each member of the Empire will determine its place for itself.

X X X X X X

Meanwhile the abandonment of any approach to the problem means in actual practice, first, that such constitutional documents and fighting plans as we have are being settled not deliberately on British soil but spasmodically at the whim of other nations in the hotel bedrooms and lounges of romantically named summer and winter resorts of continental Europe, and second, that they are settled, not by Canadian political delegates, but by metaphysicians called legal draftsmen who are now so accomplished in their arts that the plain man can no longer understand their efforts, which as Mr. Hughes of Australia said, must be taken like the Holy Trinity on faith.

X X X X X X

Some are for clearing the chaos by a complete out and out cutting away from the Empire. . . There is very great force in their whole position and the trend of events goes to strengthen it. But the forthright solution suggested has the natural effect on men's minds and is apt to inhibit frank and coherent discussion. You do not come from a clear sky, and in the absence of some inescapable event to force you, suddenly break off such old intimate associations, lift your hat and say thank you but I am through with you. You try to find wherein you can continue to work together and on what basis. In this case we have to ask whether the world would be well served by breaking completely the last important political tie between North America and Europe. (1)

X X X X X X

(1) Meighen Papers. Vol.55. File 28. (L.C.Christie)