

## WHAT OF CANADA?

we believed and believe it to be for humanity at large and our own chosen form of civilization. And England knows. Since the war began no responsible British Statesman has ever called Canada a Colony. We with other British peoples are recognized and called, as we are, Self-Governing British Nations.

In 1917, a remarkable circumstance occurred which is thus described by the President of the Council at Ottawa:<sup>7</sup>

"In 1917, the Prime Minister of Great Britain called together the Ministers of the self-governing Dominion for consultation on vital matters of policy—relating to the prosecution of the war. They met as equals as Prime Ministers of the nations of the Empire to discuss matters of common concern to the whole Empire. Great Britain recognized that with the growth in power and influence of the Dominions, the time had come when the Government of Great Britain should frankly recognize that the Dominions had ceased to be in any sense States dependent upon the Mother Country, and had become sister nations, standing on an equality with the Mother Country."

What the Cabinet at Westminster thinks of this may be read in the Report of the War Cabinet of the Government of Great Britain for the year 1918. It reads thus:

"The common effort and sacrifice in the war have inevitably led to the recognition of an equality of status between the responsible Governments of the Empire. This equality has long been acknowledged in principle and found its adequate expression in 1917 in the creation or rather natural coming into being of an Imperial War Cabinet as an instrument for evolving a common Imperial policy in the conduct of the war. The nature of the constitutional development involved in the establishment as a permanent institution of the Imperial Cabinet system was clearly explained by Sir Robert Borden in a speech to the Empire Parliamentary Association on the 21st of June, 1918."

What our Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, said at the meeting of the Imperial Council is as follows:

"A very great step in the constitutional development of the Empire was taken last year by the Prime Minister when he summoned the Prime

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(7) Speech of the Honourable Newton W. Rowell, K. C., President of the Council, House of Commons, March 11, 1920.