

of the Empire, and the observance of this idea in practice is to his mind an essential condition for the continued existence of the Empire.

Unfortunately for those who hold as General Smuts does, it has been impossible for the British Government, in this very important case of the Locarno Conference and the Locarno Treaty, to give effect to the essential condition of that idea - joint representation and joint decision - that is : Unity of action.

But of much more importance still is the fact that the British Government, by acting as it has done, not only has for good rejected the idea of group unity as being impracticable, but has also, by leaving it optional to each separate Dominion to be a party to the Treaty or not, recognised that the Dominions cannot be prevented from acting in international matters as independent States.

Thereby it has finally broken with the idea of the Unity of the Group and group sovereignty, and we have fortunately returned to the recognition of the Dominions as international States.

That this idea has had to be rejected as a constitutional principle, was unavoidable, - because, it has proved unfeasible in practice, and because the Dominions are not prepared any longer to remain in the position of subordinates in international matters.

In international matters it is only the really independent State that counts, and under the group unity idea none of us, not even Great Britain, could lay claim to sovereign independence.

So long, therefore, as the Dominions and Great Britain have not arrived at establishing some kind of
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