

that we must depend upon the Canadian Government and upon her representative at that Council to see that only the obligations and the necessary duties of our country are discharged in so far as that representation is concerned.

That leads me to the question of representation. I am not able, and therefore do not undertake to argue the legal question. I leave that with the lawyers. The situation is simply this. The Prime Ministers of the overseas Dominions, of the British Government, and of the Free State, meet together, and in a conference in which they go over the whole matter they come to certain conclusions as to the result of the uniform and progressive development that has taken place in the communities of peoples that make up the British Empire. They agree amongst themselves that while certain legalities are still in force they have been superseded in some instances by the march of progress and the greater freedom of the constituent parts of the British Empire. They say to themselves: That, we believe, has been the practice in the past, and we bring out and make clear what this development has been; and although there are legal powers vested here and there, in some of these only the shell remains, the inner vitality has long since died out. And they come to the conclusion upon these points that certain progress has been made, and say: We purpose to carry out those in the future. But I want to say as well that somehow or other there has been brought into activity in our country an idea—it has spread wide, and will spread wider—that Canada has certain well understood rights and privileges, and duties, and that under our present constitution, by practice or by legality we are assuming those rights and privileges and are carrying out those duties. And we propose to go on doing that. But alongside with that idea there has grown up to a large extent—and it is still growing and will grow more and more—the idea that in the exercise of those rights Canada has shown her adaptability and power and capability of carrying on her affairs as so expressed, and under such full freedom. That sets the mind inevitably towards the time when some people will demand to know, if they are not already demanding it: Why, having started out on that line, should you ever recede? If the past years have brought greater privileges and greater freedom, why should not the future years bring more and more? You cannot repress that tendency of growth. But what I want to call to the attention of the Government and of this Chamber, and, if I could, of all the people of Canada, is that whilst you

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have loosened up some of the centripetal forces or influences which keep in unity and solidarity the British Empire as a whole, you have on the other hand undertaken duties and responsibilities to strengthen and extend these remaining links.

I think it would be useful for me to read to you that celebrated Resolution 9 which was passed in 1917, when the Imperial War Conference was in the midst of its war labours and questions of readjustment were brought to the front.

The Imperial War Conference was of the opinion that the readjustment of constitutional relations of the component parts of the Empire was too important and intricate a subject to be dealt with during war, and that it should form the subject of a special Imperial Conference to be summoned as soon as possible after the cessation of hostilities.

And it goes on to lay down this in the interim:

They deem it their duty, however, to place on record their view that any such readjustment, while thoroughly preserving all the existing power of self-government and complete control of domestic affairs, should be based upon a full recognition of the Dominions as autonomous nations of an imperial commonwealth, and of India as an important portion of the same; should recognize the right of the Dominions and India to an adequate voice in foreign policy—

Mind you, "an adequate voice in foreign policy"—

—and in foreign relations, and should provide effective arrangements for continuous consultation in all important matters of common imperial concern, and for such necessary concerted action, founded on consultation, as the several governments may determine

There, to my mind, is a bilateral agreement. Such and such principles are acknowledged and accepted by you, and these to a certain extent give you freedom and expansion, but there is the equally strong obligation upon you, the members of the British Commonwealth, that while having adequate voice with reference to foreign affairs, you shall hold consultation, provide liaisons and do everything in your power to increase the centripetal forces if they have been somewhat weakened in this respect.

Now, the fault I find with the Government—and this is not a captious criticism—is that whilst the Government has been swift and persistent, and perhaps extravagantly pushing, in the exercise of its freedoms, it has been remarkably slow in helping to link together and keep together the different parts of the Empire. You have pushed forward your right to representation at foreign courts. Having gone a certain distance, you now take steps in other directions looking towards the