

public. A blue book is now in preparation, and as soon as it is received it will of course be placed upon the table of the House and printed for the use of members. The subjects under consideration included the constitution of the Empire, the development and control of natural resources, Imperial preference, coördination of military equipment and stores, production of naval and military munitions and supplies, naval defence, care of soldiers' graves, naturalization, representation of India at future Imperial Conferences, the position of Indians in the self-governing dominions, removal of temptations to which overseas troops are now exposed, the trade commissioners' service, patents and other subjects.

The question of constitutional readjustment naturally came up for consideration. I think it is advisable that I should speak of that in the first instance, although it was not the first resolution passed. I shall not speak in detail of all the resolutions, but shall allude to only the more important ones, and if any discussion is required as to the others, it can more conveniently be had after we have the full record of the proceedings of the Conference before us, so far as they can be made public. I called into informal consultation the Ministers from the other Dominions and we discussed the question of constitutional readjustment pretty fully and carefully among ourselves. In the end we found that we were not very far apart in our views, and in the net result I had the honour of moving in the Conference this resolution. I should say at this point that all the proposals which have been put forward by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom with regard to an Imperial Cabinet are subject to the conclusions which may eventually be reached by the Conference mentioned in this resolution, which is as follows:

The Imperial War Conference are of opinion that the readjustment of the constitutional relations of the component parts of the Empire is too important and intricate a subject to be dealt with during the 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. They deem it their duty, however, to place on record their view that any such readjustment, while thoroughly preserving all existing powers 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 India as an important portion of the same, should recognize the right of the Dominions and of India to 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.