

SIR CECIL HURST: While thanking you for what you have said, I do not know that I can sit still under what is suggested, that the Department to which I belong is occasionally obstructive. This may not be in exact accord with the proposals put before you, but I think it does all that is asked from the point of view of the various Governments represented.

MR. LAPOINTE: There is no objection on the part of any representative?

DR. SKELTON: I should like to endorse what Sir Francis Bell has said about the work of Sir Cecil Hurst and all the other members, and I think we all feel that in approaching a subject of this complexity we have been much helped by the very complete, frank and clear statement of the situation presented to us in the original memorandum.

MR. HAVENGA: I am quite satisfied on behalf of South Africa, and associate myself with what Sir Francis Bell has said with regard to the Drafting Committee and Sir Cecil Hurst.

MR. LAPOINTE: Australia is satisfied, too?

MAJOR CASEY: Mr. Latham is not here to-day, but I have every reason to think that he would be satisfied.

MR. FITZGERALD: I should like to express my own personal appreciation to Sir Cecil Hurst. Perhaps I have been one of the biggest nuisances to him. I must admire the patience he showed as an expert in bearing with us, who are so far from being experts, in having to explain things in a way which would have been so much simpler if we had been more expert.

MR. SPENCE: India is quite satisfied.

MR. LAPOINTE: The Chairman associates himself with the tribute, which seems to be unanimous on all sides.

SIR CECIL HURST: I thank you for your very kind wishes.

DR. SKELTON: There is the question of a satisfactory definition for non-League treaties. It seems odd to use in such treaties the descriptive term here suggested: "Great Britain and Northern Ireland and all other parts of the Empire which are not separate members of the League of Nations."

SIR FRANCIS BELL: It is very difficult to define it otherwise.

DR. SKELTON: Very difficult, other than to refer to the "Self-Governing Dominions," but I have no suggestion. I was wondering if Sir Cecil Hurst has anything for us.

SIR CECIL HURST: I said we would think the matter over to see if we could find some form that could be substituted in the case of non-League treaties, but up to the moment I personally have not had time to find it. I had hopes that we might receive suggestions from other quarters.

MR. FITZGERALD: I think we can accept it until an alternative is produced.

SIR CECIL HURST: At the moment.

MR. LAPOINTE: There is nothing wrong about it except that it seems too long.

SIR FRANCIS BELL: It is quite possible that in the definition of the King's title, which must devolve from other Conferences—there must be another title for the King, of course—that the matter might be made simpler in that event, instead of "British Dominions beyond the Seas," "The Colonies and Dominions" or something of that kind. But I should say we need not bother our heads about that. Something will be used that will not be so clumsy eventually, but it will not be "the British Empire and Canada."

MR. FITZGERALD: There are a couple of points I think Sir Cecil might want to bring up. One is, we have generally agreed that in Geneva we will, by constant reference to the British Delegation as the Delegation of Great Britain, try to get that established; and I think we more or less decided yesterday that at an international conference an attempt should be made to have every Government represented here present, so that if there comes up a question for explanation it would be

perfectly clear that it is not one trying to put it across another, but that we are all agreed about it.

SIR CECIL HURST: I do attach very great importance to the second question, as when the first international conference takes place at which we desire to secure the introduction of the changes indicated in this report, there may be some hesitation or reluctance on the part of other States to accept it, and whoever is responsible for securing the introduction of these treaty forms will find his path very much facilitated if he receives support from all the British units there represented, so that the Secretariat and foreign States represented may not think it is merely some individual suggestion of one part of the Empire.

In regard to the first matter, I should, if I may, like to regard our hands as a little bit free, for I am not sure to what extent it may be possible to introduce these changes. The question of the rules that may bind the Secretariat and so on are not matters we have yet had time to look into, and I doubt very much whether we can get to know what will be possible at Geneva.

MR. FITZGERALD: I only thought that would be satisfactory.

SIR FRANCIS BELL: If we are all agreed on that I think we all want to express our appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, for patience which exceeds so far that of Job that you deserve to have the monument on which patience sits smiling at grief.

MR. LAPOINTE: I will send you my photograph. Is there anything else for us to do. I suppose this concludes our work, and we must thank our Secretaries for the strenuous work they have done.

(The proceedings of the Sub-Committee then terminated.)

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W. 1,  
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Memoranda

Index.