

To Grey's letter, in a "private and personal" one of April 16th, of miscellaneous comment, Lord Crewe replied:

You wrote me on the 3rd March with regard to the subjects to be discussed at the Imperial Conference next year. I note what you say once more as to a possible division in this department between the Self-Governing Dominions and the Crown Colonies. I flew a kite on this matter at the Dinner to Sir George Reid the other day, and the possibility seemed to be well received generally. . . (1)

Lord Grey then replied to Lord Crewe on April 28, 1910:

I noticed the kite you flew at Sir George Reid's dinner. I am glad to hear it was generally admired. A complete divorce between the S.G.D's and the Crown Colonies is the next step in Imperial evolution. It has got to come. The only question is who is to give it the lead. I want Canada to give the lead. I have not yet given up hope. Laurier when he brought the matter before Council came up against an unexpected snag in Fielding. He told me yesterday that he was unwilling to press his suggestion upon Council against Fielding's protest, but that he could carry Council if he wished.

Parliament prorogues next Wednesday. I shall urge Laurier to tackle Fielding privately again, as soon as possible. I had a little talk with Fielding some time ago. He took up the position of an English Conservative. "Canada was a Dependency"; the present mix-up of S.G.D's and C.C.'s at the C.O. was alright, etc., etc., etc. I shall be disappointed in Laurier if he has not grit enough to overcome this sort of opposition. . . (2)

On the same day, April 28th, Grey wrote to Laurier:

Lord Crewe tells me in a private letter that he flew a kite on the proposed divorce between the Self-Governing Dominions and the Crown Colonies at the Dinner to Sir George Reid, the Australian High Commissioner, the other day, and that the possibility was generally well received. For reasons that I have already stated to you, I regard a complete divorce between the Departments dealing with matters relating

(1) Ibid. Vol. 16. File 41 (Doc. 004306).

(2) Grey of Howith Collection. Vol. 16. File 42. (Doc. 004314).