

C 60279

5.

Statement of position of Dominions and Great Britain
as set forth in report of Imperial Conference, 1926:

"They are autonomous communities in the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs, though united by their allegiance to the Crown, and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations".

Let me again point out this statement does not suggest anything new; but to register stage of development.

Purpose of introducing, to make clearer quasi-diplomatic, or diplomatic powers or functions of High Commissioner and representative of Government in Great Britain and Europe.

Oddly enough, Sir John goes on to speak of this necessity with regard alike to England and to France: He says -

"Both England and France, it is believed, are about to enter into new negotiations for extended commercial relations. In such a case it is obviously of great importance that Canada should have an officer, such as this Bill provides for, who should be always on the spot, ready to take advantage of every matter without any communication with Canada. The office will include diplomatic and emigration duties."

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
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