

Perhaps this is an appropriate moment for a new statement as to the position of the Governor General. In this connection I was a little surprised at the suspicion with which my hon. friend was inclined to view a reference to the crown in the report of the Imperial conference committee. He asked very pointedly whether there was any ulterior motive, or if there was anything behind the plain statement of fact which appears in its pages. I may say to my hon. friend that the reason the statement was made so plain was to prevent the possibility of anyone having an ulterior idea with respect to any phase of the subjects to which it relates. I might just read to the House the statement contained in the report with reference to the position of the Governor General. The pertinent words are as follows:

The Governor General of a dominion is the representative of the crown, holding in all essential respects the same position in relation to the administration of public affairs in the dominion as is held by His Majesty the King in Great Britain, and that he is not the representative or agent of His Majesty's government in Great Britain, or of any department of that government.

I think that is a statement with which every hon. member of this House will be in hearty accord. My hon. friend asked if there was any particular reason why the word "crown" should be substituted for the word "king". I may say that I was not aware of a thought in the mind of anyone that a substitution was being made; in fact, in the one sentence both words are used:

—the representative of the crown holding in all essential respects the same position in relation to the administration of public affairs in the dominion as is held by His Majesty the King in Great Britain—

My hon. friend in the course of his remarks drew attention to the fact that some old documents refer to the queen, having reference to the Victorian era. Possibly the word "crown" was put there in order to stand for either king or queen. I can assure my hon. friend that from any discussion I heard at the conference, and from what took place there, there was not in the mind of anyone, so far as I am aware, the slightest desire to have the crown mean other than the ruling sovereign, be he King George or any of his successors, and be they kings or queens.

The important point of that paragraph, the significant feature of it, is that which makes perfectly clear that the Governor General in Canada is the personal representative of His Majesty; that he is in the truest sense of the word, a viceroy; that he is not the representative of the government or of any department of the government of Great

Britain. That is the important feature of that particular statement, and I am sure there is reason for feelings of pride in the breast of every citizen of this Dominion that a statement to that effect should be made in unqualified terms. Indeed, the paragraph immediately preceding gives the reason why the statement is made as clearly as it is. It reads:

That position—

That is the position of Governor General.—though now generally well recognized—

That is as the representative of His Majesty in the Dominion—

—undoubtedly represents a development from an earlier stage when the Governor General was appointed solely on the advice of His Majesty's ministers in London and acted also as their representative.

In our opinion it is an essential consequence of the equality of status existing among the members of the British commonwealth of nations that the Governor General of a dominion is the representative of the crown, holding in all essential respects the same position in relation to the administration of public affairs in the dominion as is held by His Majesty the King in Great Britain.

Mr. BENNETT: I do not like to interrupt, but perhaps the right hon. gentleman would not mind if I asked him this question. Does he mean the crown in right of the Dominion, and is the appointment of a Governor General to be made on the recommendation of His Majesty's ministers in Canada or His Majesty's ministers in London? That is a development of the proposition with which he is now dealing.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I was coming to that. The point that I wished to make perfectly clear in the first instance was this: That within the British Empire, in the so-called self-governing dominions, there has been a distinct constitutional development, or evolution, whatever term one prefers to use, from the status of crown colony to that of a self-governing dominion. In the case of a colony a Governor General is sent out as the representative, not merely of the crown, but of the British government; he receives his instructions from the British government or some department of that government as its agent, and he acts as an agent of the British government.

In a self-governing dominion the position is different; the Governor General in a self-governing dominion is constitutionally in identically the same position in relation to the affairs of the particular country to which he comes as His Majesty the King is in relation to the affairs of Great Britain. He