

a committee as was suggested, but *we thought it preferable to keep the Conferences to their present composition, without any more power than they have at the present time*; and therefore we suggested that the name Conference should be retained, substituting for 'Colonial' the word 'Imperial,' which I think is more in accordance with the fitness of things. These Conferences are really Imperial in their character, since they are not composed only of the self-governing Colonies, but of the representatives of the Imperial Government also."*

The suspicion evidently entertained by Canada lest an Imperial Council might acquire new powers does not appear to have been shared by Australia, New Zealand, and Cape Colony, but it is important to observe that Mr. Deakin, in proposing the new title, and Sir J. Ward and Dr. Jameson in supporting it, expressly disclaim the notion of creating any body with any other than purely consultative powers.

"Our idea was not to endow the new body, under whatever title it was known, with any legislative or executive power whatever, nor to diminish its immediate dependence upon the Governments of the Dominions represented here" (Mr. Deakin†). "I want also to say that I think the functions and powers of the Council should be consultative and advisory only on everything, and that it should have no executive or administrative powers" (Sir J. Ward‡). "We did not wish to institute any new scheme whatever, as Mr. Deakin has explained; all that we desired was to make more efficient the work of the Conference, as the Conference stands at present" (Dr. Jameson§).

But while the representatives of the several Colonies are in full agreement that no body shall be created which shall trench in any way upon the control of their own affairs by the Colonies, or shall bind them to any common action, a very interesting rift of sentiment appears upon certain practical proposals which to certain Colonies appear to have a dangerous tendency in that direction.

* Cd. 3523, page 29. † Page 27. ‡ Page 31. § Page 33.