

That the Imperial War Conference, having examined the memorandum on the position of Indians in the self-governing Dominions presented by the Indian representatives to the Conference, accepts the principle of reciprocity of treatment between India and the Dominions and recommends the memorandum to the favourable consideration of the Governments concerned.

As far as the representation of India is concerned, I am absolutely confident that it will be productive of good. I had more than one illustration of that during the Conference itself. The Indian representatives were the Maharaja of Bikaner, one of the native Indian princes and a man of splendid loyalty and devotion, who governs his country along progressive lines, and who has contributed in every possible way to the winning of this war. Another member was Sir Satyendra Sinha, who is a member of the Executive Council of the Viceroy of India, a man of notable learning, experience and ability and of great fairness and moderation as well. The third was Sir James Meston, the Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces, who has had a distinguished career as a civil servant in India, and who also is a man of commanding ability and wide experience. I found it of very great advantage in discussing matters of common concern to India and ourselves that we had the representatives of India at the Conference. I invited the members of the Conference to meet informally at the hotel at which I was staying, and we had a free, full and frank discussion of the whole situation in so far as the Dominions are concerned. India has had matters of difference, matters sometimes of controversy with South Africa, perhaps also with Australia and New Zealand, and on some occasions with Canada. Sir Satyendra Sinha stated the case from the Indian standpoint with great ability and fairness, conspicuous moderation and very deep feeling. His address to us was not the less impressive because it was so fair and so moderate. On our part we spoke with equal moderation. The net result was the resolution at which we arrived, and which I have read. Its basis is the idea that the self-respect of India shall be maintained by an agreement that whatever measures we enforce in regard to the emigration or the visits of Indians to Canada shall also prevail with regard to the emigration or visits of Canadians to India.

I do not think that any one in this House can dispute the fairness of that proposal. Upon certain other matters which we discussed I need not dwell today. I see nothing but good in the presence of India at that Conference, and I believe that there will be no objection in this House or in this country to having that great dependency of the Empire represented at future meetings. India has been splendidly loyal in this war