

of the experience of the Committee of Enquiry, and of the practice which has grown up in the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth Government desires to make an alteration.

3. *The Re-Admission to British Nationality of British-born Women Married to Aliens.* (See Appendix VI, Parts 1 and 3, in Cmd. 1988.)

The Committee are of opinion that the principle of the existing law that the nationality of a married woman depends on that of her husband should be maintained. They, nevertheless, recommend that power should be taken to readmit a woman to British nationality in cases where the married state, though subsisting in law, has, to all practical purposes, come to an end.

4. *Marriages with Foreigners.*

Having examined the Report (contained in the despatch of the 6th April, 1923, from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia*) on the action which is being taken by the Foreign Office and the Home Office to carry into effect the Marriage with Foreigners Act, 1906, the Committee find that they have no recommendation to make.

*For the correspondence, see Appendix VI, Part 4, in Cmd. 1988.

APPENDIX II.

Committee on the Anglo-French Condominium in the New Hebrides.

(A.)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ABOVE COMMITTEE, HELD IN THE ROOM OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES, COLONIAL OFFICE, S.W., ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1923, AT 5 P.M.

Present :

His Grace the DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., Secretary of State for the Colonies (*in the Chair*).

The Right Hon. L. S. AMERY, M.P., First Lord of the Admiralty. The Right Hon. W. F. MASSEY, Prime Minister of New Zealand.

The Right Hon. STANLEY M. BRUCE, M.C., Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.

The following were also present :

Sir ROBERT GARRAN, K.C.M.G., Solicitor-General, Commonwealth of Australia. Mr. R. A. C. SPERLING, C.M.G., Foreign Office.

Sir J. MASTERTON SMITH, K.C.B., Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office. Mr. J. F. N. GREEN, Colonial Office.

Mr. N. E. ARCHER
Mr. F. D. THOMSON, C.M.G. } *Joint Secretaries.*

The Duke of Devonshire, in opening the discussion, said that the position of affairs in the New Hebrides was set out in the despatch to the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of the 25th June, 1923, a printed copy of which had been circulated to members of the Committee. Since that date, though the new Protocol had been proclaimed on the 1st July, the position in the group had not improved. The President of the Joint Court had not yet left Spain, and, although the Public Prosecutor had reopened the Court on the 26th June, the resignation in September of the Registrar, who was acting as Public Prosecutor, had left the Court unable to function, owing to the lack of either a Public Prosecutor or a Native Advocate.

The preponderance of French recruitment continued, whilst British trade was handicapped by the lack of sufficiently frequent means of communication under the British flag.

The fall in the franc had made the position of British officers paid from Condominium funds extremely difficult, and the question of some assistance to them, at the expense of Imperial funds, was receiving consideration. In short, the position of the Condominium was very unsatisfactory. He enquired whether any other recent information had been received in the Foreign Office.

Mr. Sperling stated that he had no new facts of importance to communicate, but that the Committee might be interested to know that a reply had just been received from the French Government to our proposals regarding the appointment of a new Native Advocate, which were put forward just over three months ago. This reply opposed our suggestion for a certain extension of the Native Advocate's functions, but agreed to a joint approach to the Belgian Government with a view to a new appointment.

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