

[In the columns of the *Standard of Empire* this Minister is always referred to as the Secretary of State for Greater Britain.—ED.]

Second: Recommend to each of the self-governing nation-States the establishment of a distinct department in their government, under a responsible head, for the management of their general external interests, and, in particular, the conduct of matters of Imperial concern. The establishment of such a department in each State would co-ordinate Imperial action.

[The *Standard of Empire* has frequently urged the desirability of including in the Government of every self-governing British State, a Department and a Minister of Imperial or External Affairs.—ED.]

Third: Constitute or arrange for the establishment of a permanent consultative committee or council, consisting of the High Commissioners, Agents-General of the various self-governing Oversea States, the Crown Agents, the Secretary of State for Greater Britain, for India, and for Foreign Affairs, and the Premier of Great Britain, to which all questions of Imperial interest might be referred. Many of these men are gentlemen of great distinction and ability; their successors in office could be selected with this added duty in mind.

This Imperial Committee or Consultative Council would be constituted without legislative powers—a means of communication, an Imperial clearing house. All its members are residents of the capital of the Empire. All are in close and constant touch with their constituencies Oversea. Such a council could in an exceedingly short time consult the opinion of every Imperial province. There would be no danger of any portion of the Empire being ignored or over-ridden. Every responsible Government Overseas, federal and provincial; every self-governing State, Crown Colony, Protectorate, and "sphere of influence" would have its representative and pro-consul, and as the Crown Colonies and other dependencies became self-governing they would acquire new rights and privileges in the Council of Empire.

Mutual Understanding.

As already stated, the functions of such a committee would be advisory; the committee would be a means of arriving at a mutual inter-Imperial understanding on any matter requiring uniform or reciprocal legislation or uniform administrative action, and, while possessing no legislative powers, it would promote closer union and a step forward made.

The discussions of the committee would, of course, have particular reference to:—

(a) Imperial defence—naval and military matters, including the enlargement of the Committee of Imperial Defence by the addition of Overseas representatives.

It would seem that only by a system of representative committees can the Imperial provinces unite their Ministerial action and Imperial administration. To delegate Empire-wide powers to the holder of a Cabinet position in the British Gov-