

under your guidance has given the lead so often along the pathway of Imperial evolution, and especially by you individually.

.....

It is unnecessary in this letter to point out the advantages in drawing more closely together the co-ordinate States of the Empire, that would result from the establishment of a Dominion Department, in a building in which ~~might~~ room might possibly be found for the housing in a manner befitting the dignity of the Dominions, of the London Offices of the various High Commissioners and Agents-General. (1)

To Lord Crewe he wrote, on March 3:

I have had several talks with Sir Wilfrid in 1909, and as far back as 1908 and 1907, with regard to the subjects which, on Canada's suggestion, should be discussed at the 1911 Imperial Conference.

There are two most important subjects which he inclines to suggest as fit and proper matters for discussion, but so far I have been unable to obtain from him any note giving official expression to his views. This reluctance on his part does not proceed from want of conviction. It is the result of a natural habit to procrastinate, strengthened by his belief in procrastination as a safeguard against mistakes, and by a pretty but excessive modesty which prevents him from pushing himself into the limelight.

Question No.1: The desirability of making a complete divorce in your home Department between the Self-Governing Dominions and the Colonies. I have already informed you of the line in which Sir Wilfrid's mind is travelling in this direction, and will say no more now on this question. . . (2)

To Sir Wilfrid Laurier Grey wrote, on March 18:

I omitted to ask you yesterday whether you had been able to carry Council with you in support of your proposal to suggest to the C.O. that the complete divorce of the Dominions from the Colonies should be one of the subjects for discussion at the next Imperial Conference.

I noticed in one of the newspapers yesterday that Ld Crewe had made some suggestion tending in that direction. May I suggest that before the English papers arrive containing a verbatim report of Ld Crewe's remarks, your letter to Mr. Asquith shd be mailed. - The credit of this suggestion belongs to you, and I regard it as important but you should not be robbed of it.

- (1) Laurier Papers. Vol. 735 (Doc. 206523-6)
- (2) Grey of Howith Collection. Vol.16. File 40.(Doc.004285).
- (3) Laurier Papers. Vol. 735. Governor General's Correspondence, 1910. (Doc.206689).