

suspicion. I think his remarks, in so far as they might have that effect, should be replied to at this time. What I have further to say will be said largely with that object in view.

Let me make clear first of all that so far as the government of Canada is concerned—and I refer now to the statement of my hon. friend that there had been connivance between the government of Canada and the government of Great Britain, or between myself and Mr. Baldwin with regard to the king's abdication—the first communication received by myself or the government from Mr. Baldwin came after Mr. Baldwin had had three conferences with His former Majesty. Mr. Baldwin has told of one of these conferences which came about at his own instance, in which he spoke to His Majesty as a counsellor and friend. He then referred to three other conferences which he had with the former king, each of which was at the request of His Majesty. At the first of these conferences the king had intimated to Mr. Baldwin that he intended to marry Mrs. Simpson; that he realized that she could not be queen, and that he was "prepared to go." I believe that was the expression used. Mr. Baldwin stated that naturally he was greatly surprised at any such thought in His Majesty's mind and so expressed himself, and said he would require time to think the matter over.

The next interview came when the king himself again sent for Mr. Baldwin. At that interview the king raised a new question, which was as to whether in Mr. Baldwin's opinion the parliament at Westminster would enact a law which would permit him to marry the lady to whom he had referred, she however not to have the position of queen but to live with him at Buckingham Palace as his wife, to take no part in affairs of state, he on his part and she also agreeing that as far as any issue of the marriage was concerned, such issue should be barred from succession to the throne. Again Mr. Baldwin expressed surprise at the matter concerning which his view had been asked. He stated that he would need time to consider the question and pointed out to His Majesty that in considering the question further it would be necessary for him to put the matter formally before the whole cabinet and communicate with the governments of the several dominions since the governments of the dominions were concerned equally with the government of Great Britain in anything which might affect the crown. His Majesty recognized this to be so, and Mr. Baldwin left His Majesty after the interview with the understanding that it was His Majesty's wish that the dominions would be communicated with.

As I have said, it was after these interviews that the first communication came from Mr. Baldwin to myself, from Mr. Baldwin as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to myself as Prime Minister of Canada, with an intimation that a similar communication was being sent to the prime ministers of the different dominions of the British commonwealth. Mr. Baldwin asked in the communication he sent me whether I would inform him as to what I thought would be the opinion of the people of Canada with respect to the two matters to which I have referred, first the marriage of the king to Mrs. Simpson, she becoming queen, and, second, the marriage of the king to Mrs. Simpson, she not to become queen, but to be the king's wife as described. Mr. Baldwin said that he wished to have this information from the different dominions in order that their views might serve as a guide to him in giving further consideration to the matter.

I replied to Mr. Baldwin's communication, giving it as my view that the people of Canada would not approve of either arrangement.

Some hon. MEMBERS, hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Shortly after that communication had been sent, our government was formally advised that His Majesty the king was considering abdication. We were told that His Majesty had asked as to the British government's view with regard to the question of a morganatic marriage, or rather I should say had asked the Prime Minister what he believed, having had an opportunity to consult his colleagues, would be the view of the British government and of the British parliament with respect to the enactment of a morganatic marriage act. Mr. Baldwin replied that his inquiries had gone far enough to show that neither the governments of the dominions nor the United Kingdom government would take the responsibility of introducing any such measure. The king stated that he was not surprised that it was so, and apparently no further reference was made to the matter.

The point I wish to make clear here—and I am stating these matters as they came in correspondence to me; all have been publicly stated in Mr. Baldwin's remarks to the British house—is this, that no advice was tendered to the sovereign except in relation to this one question which I have mentioned, nor was advice sought in any other particular. An intimation was received from the Prime Minister of Great Britain to the effect that possibly the different dominions might wish of their own accord to tender advice to His