

restrain the full measure of local autonomy now enjoyed and exercised by the Dominions; nor should it hamper the free development of the national character peculiar to each of the British nations.

Having briefly recalled the main features of other federated states, such as the United States, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Switzerland, he adds: "The British Commonwealth, however, is distinguished from all these cases by the fact that it is made up of territories which, instead of being contiguous, are as widely separated as so many territories on the face of this earth can well be. So far it has succeeded in combining them as parts of one international state, and has done so by consciously abandoning the idea of uniting them as parts of one nation. Its whole system is based upon the assumption that Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa are each free to develop a nationalism of their own as distinct from English nationalism, as English nationalism itself is distinct from that of the Americans." (p. 55).

This peculiarity of the British Commonwealth is not only in harmony with the principles of British public law: it is essentially characteristic of young nationalities. To try and put a stop to the growth of that born instinct would be both useless and pernicious.

"The inhabitants of all new countries aspire to produce a distinctive nationality of their own, and are eminently right in doing so. It is a healthy instinct which leads them to despise those who have no higher ambition than to reproduce the nationality developed under the conditions of a distant land and a different climate. Canadians, Australians, and South Africans are jealous of attempts to anglicize their manners and institutions. But really their fears are groundless. Their local environment, and above all the faculty they have acquired of regulating their own social development, invariably prove too strong for such projects. National individuality "cometh not with observation," but grows of itself. Certain great principles of life, such as the principle of self-government, will, as time goes on, become more and more a common inheritance of mankind. But side by side with this spread of ideas, which gradually become more generally applicable to human society everywhere, will be seen the development of national types appropriate to different countries, to their various climates, and to the several histories of the people inhabiting them. In the British Commonwealth, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa are all isolated from one