

Government, on October 15th, officially proposing an Imperial Council, a Secretariat and an "Imperial Commission" of "experts" on the lines of Sir Frederick's mission. An account of the latter, together with my objections to the use of the word "council", and my own proposals, will be found in an article entitled "Imperial Organization," in the Canadian Magazine for December, 1905, (which, embodying the substance of my speech, was written immediately after the banquet and mailed in the early part of October both to the Magazine and to these gentlemen). In the speech the phrase proposing the name—"Call it the Imperial Conference"—was accompanied by the reasons for the use of each of the two words. Identical reasons were used by the Canadian Government in their reply to the Home despatch which they sent on November 15th. In essence they said as follows:—"They entertain with some doubt the proposal to change the name of the Colonial Conference to that of the Imperial Council... As the Committee understands the phrase, a conference is a more or less unconventional gathering for informal discussion of public questions, continued, it may be, from time to time as circumstances external to itself may render expedient, but possessing no faculty of binding action. The assembly of colonial ministers which met in 1897 and 1902 appear to the Committee to fulfil these conditions. The term 'Council,' on the other hand, indicates, in the view of Your Excellency's ministers, a more formal assemblage, possessing an advisory and deliberative character, and, in conjunction with the word 'Imperial,' suggesting a permanent institution, which, endowed with a continuous life, might eventually come to be regarded as an encroachment upon the full measure of autonomous legislative and administrative power now enjoyed by all the self-governing colonies. The Committee, while not wishing to be understood as advocating any such change at the present time, incline to the opinion that the title 'Imperial Conference' might be less open to the objections they have indicated than the designation proposed by His Majesty's Government."

Let me add that in the beginning of 1907, I was able by letters to obtain the general adoption of the name "Imperial Conference" in place of "Colonial" by the Daily Chronicle and most of the London press, and this general popular adoption made easy its official recognition by the Conference itself in April. I trust I am not acting unduly in recording the above facts.

W. D. LIGHTHALL.

Montreal, July 9th, 1907.