

thority on which the Dominions should be represented which would control immigration. I think the views of all the Dominions were against it. They felt that any British authority should be set up by the British Government itself, and that while the Dominions would consult with them in respect to the policy adopted, the British Government must alone be responsible in connection with that authority. The principle, however, of direct immigration to the self-governing Dominions was one in which the conference heartily concurred. And, although I take it for the time being that the first task is to absorb our own returned soldiers and to secure employment for any who may, through the dislocation of industry caused by the cessation of the war, be thrown out of employment, as soon as we are in a position to receive immigration I have no doubt we may expect a substantial influx from the Old Country, particularly of soldiers who fought in the war.

Mr. VIEN: Do I understand that this or any other organization under the control of the British Government will direct and shape our immigration policy?

Mr. ROWELL: They have absolutely nothing to do with our immigration policy but are merely concerned with directing British immigrants to the self-governing dominions, and with that policy we are in hearty accord.

Perhaps the most important question concerning immigration was that relating to India, which aspect of the situation I shall explain to the House. Hon. members will recognize the fact that the question of Indian immigration to the different dominions of the Empire has created considerable feeling and controversy for many years. It is a subject on which the people of India have felt very deeply, and upon which the peoples of the self-governing dominions have had no less strong and decided convictions. The position of the representatives of India was that that country being a portion of the Empire, her citizens should not be placed in a less advantageous position than other Asiatic peoples. They took the view that as they were citizens of the Empire fighting in the war for the British cause they should not be discriminated against or placed in a less advantageous position than the people of China or Japan. That contention, one must frankly concede, was strong and meritorious from their standpoint. The conference of 1917 agreed upon a principle of reciprocity, agreeing that the citizens of any dominion should

not ask greater privileges as regards visiting or settling in India than they were prepared to concede to the people of India, settling or visiting in the dominions.

Mr. LEMIEUX: It meant exclusion.

Mr. ROWELL: It meant something to them as a matter of sentiment. It meant that they were not disposed to grant to any of the dominions the privileges which would not be accorded them in return. As might be expected, at the conference of 1918, at which the Indian representatives attended for the first time as a matter of right, the great question in their minds, and the one which they strongly urged upon the attention of the conference, was the position of East Indians in the self-governing dominions and the matter of Indian immigration in the future. The whole subject received the most careful consideration of the conference, the discussions extending over a considerable period; and the following resolution which was unanimously agreed upon was accepted by India and the dominions as being a practicable policy, giving effect to the principle of reciprocity which had been adopted at the conference of 1917. This resolution, No. 21, is:

The Imperial War Conference is of opinion that effect should now be given to the principle of reciprocity approved by Resolution XXII, of the Imperial War Conference, 1917. In pursuance of that resolution it is agreed that:—

I would ask my hon. friends to note particularly clause No. 1 as it has a very important bearing upon our relations with India.

1. It is an inherent function of the Governments of the several communities of the British Commonwealth, including India, that each should enjoy complete control of the composition of its own population by means of restriction on immigration from any of the other communities:

2. British citizens domiciled in any British country, including India, should be admitted into any other British country for visits, for the purpose of pleasure or commerce, including temporary residence for the purpose of education. The conditions of such visits should be regulated on the principle of reciprocity as follows:—

(a) The right of the Government of India is recognized to enact laws which shall have the effect of subjecting British citizens domiciled in any other British country to the same conditions in visiting India as those imposed on Indians desiring to visit such country.

(b) Such right of visit or temporary residence shall, in each individual case, be embodied in a passport or written permit issued by the country of domicile and subject to *visé* there by an officer appointed by, and acting on behalf of, the country to be visited, if such country so desires.

[Mr. Rowell.]