

the establishment of a Council or other imperial body with the beginnings of administrative or legislative authority.

This was not for lack of attempts in this direction. Resolutions of the Governments of Australia, New Zealand, and Cape Colony were tabled proposing the establishment of an Imperial Council, to consist of representatives of Great Britain and the self-governing Colonies. While the Australian resolution made it clear that the functions of such a Council were to be exclusively deliberative, New Zealand held that "it might facilitate the dealing with questions that affect the over-sea dominions"; while Cape Colony, more advanced in its Imperialism, proposed that at such Imperial Council "questions concerning, *inter alia*, the peace of the Empire should be discussed," and linked the proposal with a plan of Imperial defence.

The Colonial Office, under Mr. Lyttelton, appears to have taken the initiative in proposing the substitution of an Imperial Council for a Colonial Conference, and in negotiating with the Colonial Governments upon the matter. The adoption of the proposal was stopped by the refusal of Canada to accede to the arrangement, and Sir W. Laurier's explanation of this position deserves quotation.

"When this subject was first put to the Colonial Governments by the despatch of Mr. Lyttelton, the suggestion was that an Imperial Council should be created; and, as we understood it in Canada, it meant this—and I think that was the thought that Mr. Lyttelton had in his mind at the time—that the Council should be composed of the members of the present Conference or of the Conferences which have taken place up to this date; that is to say, of the Prime Ministers of all the self-governing Colonies, assisted by a permanent body to sit here in the City of London, similar to the Imperial Defence Committee. If that idea had been accepted, that there should be here a permanent Imperial Civil Committee instead of an Imperial Defence Committee, the title "Imperial Council," I think, would have been appropriate. We demurred at once in Canada to the idea of creating such