

Colonies and Great Britain, it is of urgent importance that the relative rights and obligations of the Imperial and the Colonial Governments be adequately ascertained and defined, with due regard to the just claims of the mother country and of the Colonies ; and also that the mutual relations of such Governments be adjusted so as to secure to the Colonies the utmost independence consistent with their various positions, and at the same time to maintain the integrity and to develop for the common good the resources and power of the British Empire.

"5. That to this end it is desirable that the condition and administration of the Colonies be made the subject of solemn investigation and deliberation on the part of the Government acting with the advice of Parliament ; and that whether it be conducted by parliamentary Committee or by Royal Commission, the fullest opportunity ought to be ensured to the colonists and their representatives of co-operating in, and being heard upon such inquiry ; and also with regard to the measures which may be adopted in pursuance thereof, in order that they may be as satisfactory as possible to the requirements and feelings of the Colonies.

"6. That as there is reason to fear that the policy of the Government is unfavourable to the maintenance and consolidation of the Colonies as integral parts of the British Empire, it is desirable that public opinion and action be evoked upon this momentous subject by holding public meetings, and otherwise as occasion may serve."

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