

and carried out by the existing domestic government of each party to the agreement, be it autocratic or democratic, nominated or representative, responsible to the home government or to the people of the colony.

If the Colonial Conference cannot be regarded as paving the way for a curtailment of the liberties of the self-governing colonies, but can only discuss and clarify matters of common interest, some of which the respective governments represented at the Conference may see fit to take up, each in its own way, and in so doing must have constant regard to the public opinion of their respective countries, then the development of a better understanding and a more intimate realization of what may or may not be attempted in the way of promoting mutual interests, must entirely depend upon the insight and information regarding the various parts of the Empire which is diffused throughout each portion of it, and more particularly the self-governing sections of it. Thus one of the most urgent features in any programme for the improvement of intra-imperial relations, is that of facilitating and encouraging a free interchange of ideas and information between the different portions of the Empire. Among democratic and self-governing peoples all efforts towards bringing the different portions of the Empire into closer touch with each other must be founded upon this.

One of the most significant developments in the civilized world to-day is the rapid growth of an effective international public opinion. When we seek the conditions of this very interesting development, we observe that it arises almost entirely from the rapidly increasing facilities and organs for the interchange of ideas, the discussion of mutually interesting matters, and the diffusion of reliable and detailed information as to the activities of the chief civilized nations.

The growing desire for increased knowledge of each other by the various parts of the British Empire is simply an expression of this world movement, but there are special reasons why a greater and more intimate acquaintance should be developed. While nothing could more effectually defeat its own purpose than an effort to force the people of the different sections of the Empire into artificial and restrictive connections with each other, yet, on the other hand, nothing could more effectively promote closer friendly and permanent relations than the diffusion of a more perfect knowledge of each other's general conditions, needs, and aspirations. Such enlightened relations can only be adequately