

who has had practical working experience by the League at Geneva, as Mr. Lapointe himself has had, all the people who are gathered together at Geneva must distinctly realise the separateness of the constituent autonomous elements in the Empire. I should say the greater risk was the other. It would be very interesting to hear Mr. Fitzgerald's comments on that point, because he also has had considerable experience at Geneva. Do you find, participating at Geneva in a gathering of the League, that foreign Powers in the least fail to realise the fact that the Irish Free State is a separate member of the League?

MR. FITZGERALD: Well, I think rather, yes; and, as far as our national psychology is concerned, certainly that would make it more necessary for us to stress that point than to press anything else. For instance, in September, when Spain withdrew, I know there was talk among pressmen, and they looked round first of all to see who should take Spain's place, and said: "What about the Dominions?" It was said immediately that the Dominions are represented on the Council by Sir Austen Chamberlain.

SIR FRANCIS BELL: Because the Empire has a permanent seat. The permanent seat does represent us to a certain extent.

SIR CECIL HURST: There is another element probably. There are a good many candidates for the available elected seats, and the foreigners take the view that, if the Dominions are not qualified or eligible for that election, it increases their own chance of a permanent seat.

MR. FITZGERALD: Quite, and the more you make the one unit, the more grounds you give them for that.

SIR CECIL HURST: No; we all agree that the Dominions are eligible.

MR. FITZGERALD: I heard the conversation of a fairly prominent foreign statesman where someone had said: "Have you any objection to Ireland?" It was said: "No, they have an agreement amongst themselves, and, although they might differ on minor points, they are always going to be together on major points."

SIR CECIL HURST: It was not what they hoped.

MR. FITZGERALD: Not what they hoped to realise, and their hopes were fragile enough for them to decide that it was better to get someone else on.

SIR FRANCIS BELL: You are not proposing to sit this afternoon?

MR. LAPOINTE: No. I think the next meeting is fixed for 4-30 to-morrow afternoon.

(The Committee then adjourned.)

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W. 1,
November 3, 1926.

SECRET.

Copy No. 6

E. (I.R./26/T.P.). 5th Meeting.

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1926.

THE COMMITTEE ON INTER-IMPERIAL RELATIONS.

Treaty Procedure Sub-Committee.

Stenographic Notes of the Fifth Meeting of the Sub-Committee, held in the Cabinet Room, Foreign Office, S.W. 1, on Thursday, November 4, 1926, at 4-30 P.M.

Present:

The Hon. E. LAPOINTE, K.C., Minister of Justice, Canada (*in the Chair*).

Great Britain.

Sir C. J. B. HURST, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,
K.C., Legal Adviser, Foreign Office.

Mr. E. J. HARDING, C.B., C.M.G.,
Assistant Under-Secretary of State,
Dominions Office, and Deputy Secretary to the Conference.

Commonwealth of Australia.

The Hon. J. G. LATHAM, C.M.G., K.C.,
Attorney-General.

Union of South Africa.

General the Hon. J. B. M. HERTZOG,
Prime Minister.

The Hon. N. C. HAVENGA, Minister of
Finance.

India.

Mr. G. H. SPENCE, I.C.S., Secretary to
the Delegation.

The following were also present:

Great Britain.

Mr. H. W. MALKIN, C.B., C.M.G.,
Second Legal Adviser, Foreign Office.

Mr. H. F. BATTERBEE, C.M.G., C.V.O. (Dominions Office)
Mr. F. E. F. ADAM (Foreign Office)
Mr. R. G. CASEY, D.S.O., M.C. (Australian Delegation)

Irish Free State.

Mr. J. P. WALSH, Secretary of the
Department of External Affairs.

} *Joint Secretaries.*

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