

Suppose we are right in thinking that unless people in the Dominions acquire the joint control of foreign affairs they must end by assuming a separate control, assuming, that is to say, independence, it is of the most vital importance that the project of acquiring a joint control should not become the recognized fighting platform of either faction. The moment it does so, the other party will almost certainly be led, as a party, to fight against it. By the logic of events they will, little by little, find themselves driven into putting forward an alternative proposal and into identifying themselves as a party with it. If I am right in the diagnosis of this problem that I have made, it would mean that the other political party would gradually be pushed into advocating independence. A great number of people who have been born and bred in the traditions of their party will be prevented from ever approaching the question on its merits at all.

When I say this to practical politicians they generally reply that to get a thing done you must, sooner or later, make it a question of party politics. On the whole, that is true where you are dealing with internal and domestic problems, but when you are dealing with external affairs, it is absolutely untrue. Domestic politics in England have never been more bitter than they are at the present moment, but on foreign politics the leaders of both parties have never before been so absolutely united. The moment you begin to handle this problem in the Dominions you are beginning to handle foreign politics and in the only way in which you can begin to handle them effectively. You are addressing yourself to the task of creating a machinery through which you can handle them, and that task, as I have already said, involves a constitutional reconstruction. In the experience of