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Whether this be true or not, it must be held, the present writer believes, that these new Dominion rights amount, both in practice and in theory, to an international status of an important kind. This status has been 'codified', if the expression may be allowed, in two documents, the Covenant of the League of Nations and the Report of the Committee on Inter-Imperial Relations of the Imperial Conference of 1926. It is the purpose of the succeeding chapters to discuss the effect of these documents. As will appear, it is still disputed in what sense and in what measure the Dominions have become 'persons' of International Law. But, even if legal definitions may still be disputed, it cannot any longer be disputed that in practice they are nations with a separate position of their own in the international politics of the Society of States; that, as nations, they have effective control not only over their domestic policy, but over their foreign policy as well; that they have created for themselves a separate place in respect of what has been called 'la haute politique'; that they are free to make their own treaties, commercial, technical, or political, to take their own separate part in international conferences, to create their own separate diplomatic services, to determine their own entry into or abstention from the active operations of any war.

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