

Whether on the frontiers of India, on the borders of Natal and Cape Colony, or on the coasts of England, was no concern of ours. When called upon by the Imperial government, we knew that we were responsible for defending it always and everywhere. We knew what our citizenship was and the duties it laid on us because we knew what was the state in respect of which those duties were laid. But now that we were to become the citizens of a self-governing Dominion, we were conscious of a dual citizenship. We were faced by the claims of a dual allegiance; and to the question why we should obey one rather than the other if the two should conflict, we had no reasoned answer to give.

Such were the questions which came from within South Africa, and from beyond the same question was suddenly presented in a different way. On the last day of the last national convention at Bloemfontein, when the union became an accomplished fact, a momentous announcement was cabled to South Africa. The Foreign Secretary had plainly told the British Parliament and people that the security of the British Empire was threatened from without and the Liberal government had invited the Dominions to a conference to discuss with them the means by which the safety of the Empire might be maintained. It was an announcement which compelled us to ask what sacrifices we were called on to make in order to secure the peace and safety of the Empire. In Britain we had been called upon to face such questions but there no serious difficulty was presented. On the government in power there rested a final responsibility for conducting the policy which determined the issues of peace and war. In the light of actual experience of the external forces with which it was faced, that government, with the aid of its experts, was in a position to decide