

communicated the terms of a Proclamation which, it was stated in the despatch, "was approved by His Majesty the King in Council on the 7th instant for proclaiming His Gracious Majesty King George the Fifth". The form so approved was described in Enclosure 3 of the despatch as "Form of Proclamation for proclaiming His Majesty in the Colonies". The pertinent clause of this form was given in the enclosure as follows:

We

(insert the description of the Persons making the Proclamation.)

Therefore do now hereby with one full voice and Consent of Tongue and Heart Publish and Proclaim That the High and Mighty Prince George Frederick Ernest Albert is now by the Death of our late Sovereign of Happy and Glorious Memory become our only lawful and rightful Liege Lord George the Fifth by the Grace of God, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, Supreme Lord, etc.

(Here insert the description of the Possession or Colony where the Proclamation is made.)

4. It seems unfortunate that the 1910 formula was used this time. The Report of the Inter-Imperial Relations Committee adopted by the Imperial Conference, 1926, recorded the following agreed opinion concerning the title of His Majesty the King:

The title of His Majesty the King is of special importance and concern to all parts of His Majesty's Dominions. Twice within the last fifty years has the Royal Title been altered to suit changed conditions and constitutional developments.

The present title, which is that proclaimed under the Royal Titles Act of 1901, is as follows:

"George V, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India."

Some time before the Conference met, it had been recognised that this form of title hardly accorded with the altered state of affairs arising from the establishment of the Irish Free State as a Dominion. It had further been ascertained that it would be in accordance with His Majesty's wishes that any recommendation for change should be submitted to him as the result of discussion at the Conference.

We are unanimously of opinion that a slight change is desirable, and we recommend that, subject to His Majesty's approval, the necessary legislative action should be taken to secure that His Majesty's title should henceforward read:

"George V, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India".

The Statute of Westminster, 1931, in its preamble, recorded the constitutional position as follows:

And whereas it is meet and proper to set out by way of preamble to this Act that, inasmuch as the Crown is the symbol of the free association of the members of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and as they are united by a common allegiance to the Crown, it would be in accord with the established constitutional position of all members of the Commonwealth in relation to one another that any alteration in the law touching the Succession to the Throne or the Royal Style and Titles shall hereafter require the assent as well of the Parliaments of the Dominions as of the Parliament of the United Kingdom: