

incur. This proud distinction will exist no longer. Money payment for service, the mark of the professional in every walk of life, in sport as well as in business, will in future attach to the position of a member of Parliament. It may be right that it should be so. There is no doubt that there is something to be said in favour of it, but the change is a great one. It is in harmony with the constitutional changes we have been describing, and was therefore inevitable, but like the greater changes we simply record it as further evidence of the spirit in which those changes have been effected.

Interrupting, but scarcely retarding, the revolutionary proceedings now drawing to a close, came the great events of the Coronation and of the Colonial Conference. To the first of these we have already referred. The record of the second is fully before the public, but there is one question arising out of it, the importance of which may not be fully realized, and to which we would invite attention.

Our representative at that conference, who took a leading part in its proceedings, carried the doctrine of autonomy, of which he was the chief exponent, so far as to declare, on behalf of himself and his colleagues, and, of course, of the Dominion which he represented, that in the event of the British Government engaging in a war of which this country did not approve, we should be at liberty to declare our neutrality and take no part in the contest.

How this doctrine can be reconciled with that of Imperial unity we are at a loss to conceive. A simple declaration of neutrality would be of no avail unless accepted by the other party belligerent, and that could only be done by means of a treaty into which we should enter as an independent power, and not as a part of the British Empire. And suppose, what is most probable, that the other belligerent did not choose to recognize our neutrality, our ships would be liable to seizure, and our soil to invasion. True, in that case we might fight to defend our own property, but we could expect no help from the mother country.