

opinion that "the Union could not be considered an independent Country", the Minister for the Colonies stated that South Africa is "a Colony with large autonomy but dependent on British Sovereignty". Portugal is an independent State, and one of the foreign Powers with whom we, as neighbours, come in most frequent contact on international matters.

This is her opinion as to our international Status. We may take it for granted, therefore, that opinion is not more favourable for us in the case of other foreign Powers. In other words, notwithstanding our free and equal status with Great Britain, we remain in the eyes of the outside world subject to British sovereignty, i.e. a subordinate of Great Britain.

This also applies to all the other Dominions.

Is the Portuguese Minister correct in his statement or not? Whether he be right or wrong, it is clear that his view does not agree with the theory of our equality of Status with Great Britain.

It will be seen therefore from the foregoing that I am justified in saying that one of the two main objects of the idea of the Unity of the Group, namely the recognition by foreign Powers of the Dominions as independent international States has not been attained, and that our real Status has thereby only been obscured.

The idea of the Unity of the Group has not, as regards the conception of our international status by foreign Powers, brought us any further than we were before 1919. To-day, as then, they repudiated our claim to an independent international Status.

In the second place I wish to examine with you the question, in how far the group unity idea proves to be conducive to the continued existence of the Empire, and therefore/..