

had been made. Thus Canada virtually refused to give any military assistance of any kind; Australia agreed to help if it should be absolutely required, but her delegate at the Assembly of the League, which happened to be in session, simultaneously supported in the strongest language a Norwegian proposal that the League should intervene and seek to end the war. (1) This Dominion action was successful, for the British Government immediately modified the military plans it had prepared, and largely as a result the Cabinet in power was driven to resignation. (2)

There are some writers who hold that these events have rendered untenable the theory that there can in future be any 'unitary foreign policy of the British Empire'. (3)

(1) Vide speech by Sir J. Cook, Records of the Third Assembly Committee VI, September 22, 1922. Cf. infra. pp. 100-2. As Toynbee points out (op.cit., p.51), on this occasion the Dominions and Great Britain were divided in the Assembly on a vital matter of foreign policy. For an illuminating discussion of the whole incident, vide *ibid.*, pp.46-52.

(2) On Dominion participation in war, cf. pp. 330 et seq., infra.

(3) Cf. Lowell and Hall, *British Commonwealth of Nations*, 1927, pp. 605 et seq. Cf. also the following very important declaration by General Hertzog at Pretoria on Dec. 20, 1926, cited *ibid.*, p.286: 'It must now be clear to every one of you how completely, by the Declaration of the Imperial Conference in regard to our status, the Empire group unit idea has been broken with - that idea so assiduously pleaded and preached by some people since 1919. That idea by which the Empire would in reality have acted as an authoritative unit to which the individual state members would have given up their individual free national will in reference to foreign interests, has been deliberately rejected by the Imperial Conference as being unsuitable and unwanted for our national liberty. This is a fact of the very greatest importance Under the regime.....be regarded as really free.'