

Canada, and no one professes that they can. The Prime Minister, in assenting to this resolution which I cited as an illustration, exercised exactly the same authority as the Prime Minister of Canada has exercised ever since the Imperial Conference was organized. The same authority was exercised by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the Conferences of 1897, 1902, 1907 and 1911. That is, he speaks for Canada as the representative of the Government having a parliamentary majority behind it. If that majority does not endorse his action, then the resolution is not implemented; but he has exactly the same authority to speak there on behalf of the Government as he has to speak here in Canada on behalf of the Government on any matter of public policy affecting the Dominion.

Mr. VIEN: Could the hon. minister cite an instance in the former Conferences where Sir Wilfrid Laurier bound Canada to any policy without having authority from the Canadian Parliament?

Mr. ROWELL: Let me give as an illustration the meeting of the Imperial War Conference which determined the constitution of the conference, and which prescribed who should be members of it and defined its powers: it was all assented to by Sir Wilfrid and his colleagues at the Imperial Conference, and properly assented to—

Mr. VIEN: But I mean measures?

Mr. ROWELL: —without any statutory authority. It was a perfectly proper thing for him to do as representing the Government of the day, if he believed it was a proper policy to pursue, and if when he reported back to the Canadian House of Commons they had disagreed with the conclusions he reached, then his Government would have been replaced by another Government which would not have supported the constitution adopted at that Imperial Conference. I could go further and give a whole list of resolutions adopted at the previous conferences and point to any number of them assented to in exactly the same way.

Mr. McKENZIE: There is this difference. I am not aware that any action that they took at the conference in the days of Sir Wilfrid were ratified here by the formality of an Order in Council.

Mr. ROWELL: I think that Sir Wilfrid, quite properly, took it upon himself to adopt a certain policy and did not pass any Order in Council to ratify it; he simply did it as Prime Minister. It may have been that

no Order in Council was necessary in connection with this Hindu immigration or probably could all have been done by regulation of the department, but the minister in charge of the department considered it desirable to have the policy confirmed by Order in Council before he acted upon it in an administrative way.

Mr. McKENZIE: As we are dealing with such an interesting constitutional question, perhaps the hon. minister will tell us whether it was the War Measures Act that ratified the action of the Government in London?

Mr. ROWELL: No, I think it was simply indicating the formal assent of the Government of Canada to the proposals embodied in that resolution. The minister in charge of the department is entitled to determine by regulation who shall be admitted, and who shall not, under the Immigration Act, and he can carry out that resolution without any Order in Council at all, as I understand the situation.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Will my hon. friend allow me to refer to the War Graves Commission? I am reminded that if any design was suggested by the Government the emblem of Canada should be the maple leaf; and as regards the decoration of the graves of our boys, might I suggest that Canadian flora should be transferred to the other side for this purpose?

Mr. ROWELL: I think that is a very appropriate suggestion. If it has not been already passed upon I shall be glad to draw it to the attention of our representative on the commission.

Mr. McGIBBON (Muskoka): While on that point might I ask this question: Will the graves of our Canadian boys who were killed while in the Imperial army be marked with any distinctive Canadian emblem, or will they bear the Imperial emblem?

Mr. ROWELL: I am afraid I cannot answer that question. I shall be glad, however, to see that it is raised in the proper quarter.

Coming now to the work of the Imperial War Cabinet, as I explained in opening, the work of the Cabinet was to deal with the conduct of the war and the terms of peace, and its proceedings were confidential, they were not published; but there is no reason now why I should not mention some of the subjects which came under discussion, in order to give the House some idea of the character of its proceedings.

Let me first explain that when the Cabinet met the first act of the Prime Minister of