

tears down without the slightest respect or precaution. His criticism equals and even surpasses all that I have written on the subject.¹ Of all the solemn phrases used by politicians, British or Colonials, to magnify the power and prestige of that 'meeting of governments with governments,' he merely says that "half truths" cannot "be turned into truths by repeating them often enough" (p. 95). A form of Imperial partnership the Conference is not and cannot be, because it is not responsible either to parliaments or to the people. In spite of all 'consultations', open or secret, the execution and control of imperial policy remain 'absolute, unfettered and complete' in the hands of the British cabinet.

"Under British institutions responsible government involves "the responsibility of cabinets to parliaments, but it involves "something more. Its real essence lies in the responsibility of the "parliament to the people for the choice of the ministers who conduct "their affairs" (p. 103.)—"In settling questions of peace and war "for a quarter of the human race, the Imperial Government must "always be responsible, as it now is, to one Imperial Parliament."— In this MR. ASQUITH was right; but "he refrained from adding that "in settling peace and war for a quarter of the human race, including "Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders, and South Africans, the "Imperial government is actually responsible to an electorate "confined to the people of the British Isles." ... That "*system* "violates not merely a necessary condition of responsible government "but the first and most essential of all its conditions. . . . If responsibility "for foreign affairs can never be shared by the Imperial Parliament "with an Imperial Council sitting in London,² a *fortiori* it cannot "be shared with four Dominion parliaments, sitting in Ottawa, "Melbourne, Wellington and Cape Town" (p. 104).

That the same principle applies to the command of the Imperial army and navy, and the control of the Imperial budget, MR. CURTIS has no difficulty in making clear.

¹ *La conférence impériale et le rôle de M. Laurier.* — Montréal, 1911.

² This was the dubious palliative suggested by SIR JOSEPH WARD, premier of New Zealand, and easily rejected by the combined opposition of MR. ASQUITH and SIR WILFRID LAURIER.