

"recognized as a first charge on the public resources, except in the British Isles. And this fact is inseparably connected with another. Responsibility for the issues of peace and war has nowhere been assumed, except by the people of the United Kingdom. Whenever peace returns, the first of these conditions can scarcely be revived, and cannot in any case be maintained. It will then be plain that the liberties which have been saved cannot be secured for the future, unless the burden involved is recognized as a first charge on the revenues, not of one, but of all the free communities of the Commonwealth, *in peace as well as in war*¹. Imperial ministers will be forced to confess that they cannot in future preserve the Commonwealth inviolate, unless the cost is distributed on some principle of equality through all the communities whose freedom is involved. The financial relations which previously existed between these countries in the peace which preceded this war, will be out of the question if the peace which follows it is to last. Facts will have made them impossible; but the moment this comes to be recognized it will be seen that *the financial relations of the older and younger communities cannot be revised without also revising their political relations.*" (pp. 7, 8.)

The levying of taxes, the appropriation and control of public funds, under the immediate authority of a parliament elected by the taxpayers, are the essentials of the British system of government.

Imperial defence necessitates an imperial budget. If the colonies share in the defence they must also share in the budget. That this budget should remain at the discretion of an executive responsible to a parliament elected by the sole electors of the United Kingdom the self-governing Dominions would not tolerate much longer. This basic idea crops up in almost every chapter of the book.

Even before the war, the necessity for a change was growing. The war has made it inevitable. The colonies themselves will claim a share in the government of the Commonwealth. Words of SIR ROBERT BORDEN, SIR CLIFFORD SIFTON, MR. ANDREW FISHER, late premier, now High Commissioner of Australia, are all quoted to that effect. "If I had stayed in Scotland", stated Mr. FISHER, in January last, "I should have been able to heckle my mem-

¹ In italics in the text.