

standing in the eyes of the world, it will be obliged to attach weight to the penalty of exclusion from the world's trade and finance. The provision made for the enforcement of the League's judgment is therefore one that is likely to prove effective.

The decision of those chiefly responsible for the drafting of the proposed constitution to publish it immediately and invite the consideration and criticism of the world before endeavoring to definitely enact it is much to be commended. This procedure may lead to some amendment of details. But as the proposal stands it seems to be a document well calculated to serve the high purpose which the statesmen of all the great nations have said they have in view. The Conference and the civilized world are to be congratulated on the unanimous adoption, provisionally at all events, of this noble scheme for the preservation of the world's peace.

The Dominions Protesting

THE camouflage at Paris concerning the part the Dominions are taking in the Peace Conference is becoming so apparent that even the colonial correspondents are beginning to refer to it. For many days our papers had lengthy reports of the doings of the Dominions' representatives. Most people who have had to do with the practical working of organizations are familiar with the practice of putting men on committees which have nothing to do, or for the consideration of matters to which nobody attaches importance. It pleases the men appointed, gets their names into the newspapers, and perhaps leads some innocent people to suppose that the parties are really doing something. This ancient method seems to be largely employed in Paris. Representatives of the Dominions and the so-called smaller nations are named among those who are to consider the affairs of Timbuctoo. But when real business of the Conference is to be done, the doors are closed, and the men of the Big Five—Great Britain, France, Italy, the United States and Japan—sit down to work. The pretence that the Dominions have any large part in this work can no longer be kept up. Mr. Dafoe, one of the correspondents accompanying the Canadian Ministers, has this to say in one of his late despatches:

"There is undoubtedly a good deal of feeling at the concentration of the conference powers in the hands of a small committee of the Great Powers, and it is also a fact that this feeling is shared to some degree by the Dominions, which recognize that the assumption of the right of control by the council of ten has limited their participation in the affairs of the conference, as provided for by the original plan of organization. This feeling found expression at the last conference and there is likely to be further evidence of it at the coming meeting."

The protest will avail nothing. There may be a little more camouflage, a little more of pretence that the Dominions and the "smaller nations" are doing something. But the real work of the Conference will continue to be done by the Big Five. In this there is no

ground for substantial complaint, so far as the Dominions are concerned. It was preposterous to suppose that the Great Powers, each of which was allowed five representatives, would consent that Great Britain, besides having its five, should take into the Conference, as real members, the numerous body of gentlemen from the Dominions who went to Paris. It was inevitable that any special representation allowed to the Dominion in such circumstances must be only nominal.

Australia and the Conference

THAT the Dominions, although having a colorable representation at the Peace Conference, completely failed to obtain their desire in the only matter of real importance that particularly concerned them became known what it was announced that the captured German colonies, which were claimed by the Governments of Australia and South Africa, were not to be given to them, but were to be "internationalized," to be made a sort of No Man's Land, and be placed under some authority to be created by the Conference, which would authorize some nation to act as a "mandatory" and hold the islands as trustee. This was naturally very disappointing to the British colonies mentioned. Later we were informed in the Canadian despatches from Paris that Australia had been soothed by some kind of assurance as to how the queer arrangement was to work, and that all was going well. It seems that in this case we have to look to American rather than the Canadian correspondents for the facts. The following despatch from New York tells a story differing somewhat from that told a few days ago:

"Opposition to the proposal for vestment in any nation for a mere mandatory control of the Pacific Islands by the peace conference, was expressed in a cablegram from Premier Hughes of Australia read before a meeting of the League of Free Nations here to-night.

"Absolute control of the islands is necessary," said the message, "because mandatory control would not induce the expenditure of money on uncertain possession."

"Asserting that government is a 'business which must be managed like any other business,' Premier Hughes declared that 'business is best managed where control is in the hands of a competent man on the spot, and who knows intimately all the circumstances and has a personal interest in its development and progress.'"

"The message closed with a plea for Australian possession of the German islands, which, he said, were so close to Australia as to make necessary Australian control of immigration and trade. Australia, he said, is ready to give adequate guarantees for the protection of the natives."

Most Canadians will heartily sympathize with Mr. Hughes' views. The mandatory system is not likely to prove successful. Even if Australia be given the mandate for some of

the islands the character of the control and the questionable tenure of it will tend to prevent the carrying out of a vigorous policy of development. One grave objection to the scheme proposed is that it will leave the colonial question in a state of uncertainty that will encourage German hope and German agitation for a renewed control of the islands. Philip Schiedemann, the Chancellor of the new German Government, in a speech in the National Assembly at Weimar, on Thursday last, spoke of the "restoration of the German colonies" as a part of the Government programme. Under the mandatory system, no matter what nation is placed in charge, the future of the colonies will be regarded as an open question, and Germany will feel free to carry on a propaganda for the return of the German flag. On the other hand, if the colonies are now made a part of the British Empire, either as distinct entities or as part of the Australian Commonwealth, the question will be settled, and Germany will see the folly of attempting any change.

If it be not too late to reconsider the matter, let us hope that Mr. Hughes may be able to obtain a reversal of the rule that has been laid down. But if the decision already reached by the Big Five nations is final, Australia can do nothing but accept the result with the best grace possible. The position of this matter, we are told, is causing much discontent in the Australasian colonies, and murmurings against the British Government are heard. There is no reason to believe that Mr. Lloyd George and his colleagues are open to blame. It may be taken for granted that they did what they could in support of the Australian claim, but had to submit to the decision of a majority.

President Wilson's Return

PRESIDENT Wilson is on his way home, with the intention, however, of returning soon to the Conference. He has had a most prominent part in the great events at Paris, and seems to have, on the whole, exercised his influence for good. Perhaps, in the minds of some, he has at times exhibited more energy than was to be expected from the head of a nation which entered the war at a late stage. It is to be hoped that the report is correct which states that he and the British delegates were usually in harmony. He seems to have had some friction with the old Premier of France, M. Clemenceau. This is hardly surprising. It is not easy for any American to entertain the same feeling towards the war and peace problems as is possessed by Frenchmen. The memories of 1870 are not in the mind of Mr. Wilson as they are in the minds of Frenchmen. To crush France was the first aim of the Germans. In defence of their soil Frenchmen have suffered and sacrificed in a degree that makes French statesmen unable to approach the peace table in the philosophical attitude that a man like President Wilson would naturally assume. M. Clemenceau would feel that only the might of the Allies could be relied on to prevent a renewal of the war by Germany. Hence he would look with doubt, to say the least, on the President's faith in moral force.