

is that the Imperial Government has officially conceded the right of this Dominion, and the other self-governing Dominions to legislate for the exclusion of immigrants, though British subjects. Lord Crewe, Secretary of State for India, speaking at the last Imperial conference, said: "I fully recognize, as His Majesty's Government fully recognize, that as the Empire is constituted, the idea that it is possible to have an absolutely free interchange between all individuals who are subjects of the Crown, that is to say, that every subject of the King, whoever he may be, or wherever he may live, has a natural right to travel or still more to settle in any part of the Empire, is a view which we fully admit, and I fully admit as representing the India Office, to be one which cannot be maintained. As the Empire is constituted it is still impossible that we can have a free coming and going of all the subjects of the King throughout all parts of the Empire. Or to put the thing in another way, nobody can attempt to dispute the right of the self-governing Dominions to decide for themselves whom, in each case, they will admit as citizens of their respective Dominions."

As Sir Samuel Griffith, Chief Justice of Australia, and a member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, has recently said, the following propositions seem to correctly express the existing state of the law:—

1. British nationality confers upon the holders of the status of British nationals the right to claim the protection of the British Sovereign as against foreign powers.

2. It does not, of itself, entitle the holder to any political rights or privileges within any part of the Empire, but it may be a condition of the enjoyment of such rights and privileges.

3. In the absence of any positive law to the contrary, a British national is probably entitled to claim the right of entry into any part of the British Empire.

4. A competent legislative authority of any part of the Empire may, by positive law, restrict or deny that right of entry.

So another writer, who has held the Governorship of the Windward Islands, in a collection of papers recently published in England under the title of "British Citizenship," says: "If a man of colour who is a British subject seeks to enter and settle in Australia, he finds that he is subject to certain disabilities by reason of his colour; his rights as a British subject do not include the right to enter and remain in every part of the Empire on the same terms as if he were a pure white. And it is impracticable to prevent a self-governing colony from imposing disabilities on persons of colour seeking to enter it, whether they are British subjects or not."

But in truth we are in a region other than—perhaps we should say higher than—that of mere law. We are dealing with matters which will find their ultimate settlement not in the provisions of any statute, but as the final resultant of varying sentiments, conflicting interests, and competing patriotisms. The exclusion of British subjects, whatever their colour,