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18 October, 1921.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE.

BRITISH AND DOMINION DELEGATES.

PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT.

Mr. ASQUITH: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he can make any statement with regard to the Washington Conference?

The PRIME MINISTER: The Members of the British Empire Delegation will be as follows:

The Lord President of the Council
(Mr. Balfour),
The First Lord of the Admiralty
(Lord Lee of Fareham),

and I hope to go myself as soon as the Parliamentary and general situation render this possible.

The British Ambassador to the United States, acting as a Delegate in the absence of myself or any other Delegate.

As regards the Dominions and India, it was arranged at the recent Imperial Conference that His Majesty's Government should represent the whole Empire at Washington. In view, however, of the vital importance of the subjects to be considered at the Conference on Disarmament, it was felt to be very desirable that the Dominions should be represented by their Prime Ministers themselves, or, if this proved impossible, by persons nominated by them. None of the Prime Ministers of the Dominions has found it possible to attend in person, and the following have been nominated to represent their respective Dominions on the British Empire Delegation:

Sir Robert Borden, for Canada.
Senator Pearce, for Australia,
Sir John Salmond, for New Zealand,
as well as
Mr. Srinivasa Sastri, for India.

General Smuts has decided to leave the interests of the Union to the representatives of the British Government, who were made fully acquainted with his views at the recent Imperial Conference.