

The first condition of its success is the spirit of the peoples represented; the second is vision in high places; and the third is determination so to organize our common resources and act together for common purposes as to replace the weakness of the parts by the unbounded strength of the whole community."

9. "Scrutator", writing in the same edition of "The Sunday Times", discussed the problem of co-ordinating the policy of the British Commonwealth with Western Union, and after having welcomed Mr. Attlee's announcement, concluded his article with these words:

"The real obstacle, presumably, lies, as it always has since the war, in the attitude of the Canadian Government; and it ought not to be allowed indefinitely to prevent the other Governments from meeting."

10. "The Economist" offered another solution. It remarked that the difficulties in the way of an early meeting were very great, in spite of the British Government's professed willingness to call a Commonwealth Conference, but that a solution might be "for London to conduct bilateral talks with each Dominion and to take the responsibility for sorting out and grouping together the various views about future political and economic policy developments in the Commonwealth."

11. Generally speaking, Mr. Attlee's declaration has been well received, both in Parliament and by the press, and, as already reported, it is to be expected that the powerful interests both within and without the United Kingdom which favour the idea of a Conference, would make the most of it and even try and force the issue were they to discover that the United Kingdom authorities would prove lukewarm in following up the matter.

12. According to my information, no plans have been made yet by the United Kingdom Government, and it is not expected that a Conference will be held within the next few months. In some circles, however, it is believed that a Commonwealth Conference could be held either before or after the General Assembly of the United Nations which is to meet in Paris at the end of September. It is too early to foresee whether this will prove practicable at that time. A Conference called at any earlier date would, in my opinion, serve little purpose, and might even cause more harm than good.

13. I am sending copies of this despatch and the enclosure to the High Commissioners in Canberra, Wellington, Pretoria, Dublin, and New Delhi.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

High Commissioner.