

men in the Cabinet will continue; I think it likely that it will not continue. Therefore the future of this proposal will be a Cabinet of Governments rather than of Ministers; a Cabinet in which the Government of the United Kingdom, the Governments of the Dominions, and the Government of India will be represented. Having regard to the declarations of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and his colleagues, the proposal will carry with it much of advantage to the overseas Dominions. I say that for this reason: it is not proposed that the Government of the United Kingdom shall, in foreign affairs, act first and consult us afterwards. The principle has been definitely and finally laid down that in these matters the Dominions shall be consulted before the Empire is committed to any important policy which might involve the issues of peace or war. The language in which the Prime Minister of Great Britain conveyed his proposal to the Ministers from the Dominions made that abundantly clear. So, as I understand the proposal—and I think I understand it correctly—the British Cabinet shall continue to discharge its functions in respect to all matters relating to the United Kingdom, but there shall be also an Imperial Cabinet, in which not only the United Kingdom, but all the overseas Dominions shall be represented by their Governments.

The representatives of the United Kingdom will consist of the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, the Secretary of State for India, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and very probably the Secretary of State for War and the First Lord of the Admiralty. The representatives of the overseas Dominions will be their Prime Ministers, or if the Prime Minister is unable to attend, some Minister of first rank must attend in his place, who, for the time being, shall possess the authority and exercise the functions of the Prime Minister for that purpose. It is idle to have an Imperial Cabinet unless those who assemble around the council board are possessed of the authority for the time being to carry out the proposals which may be agreed to. It may be said, in criticism of this proposal, that what the Prime Minister of one of the Dominions might there agree to he could not afterwards carry out because the assent of Parliament might be withheld. That criticism, however, is equally applicable to any policy that a government might bring down, and, therefore, it does not seem to constitute a grave objection to the proposal which has been outlined by Mr. Lloyd George.

We all know that the future constitutional relations of the Empire have been a matter of much discussion in parlia-