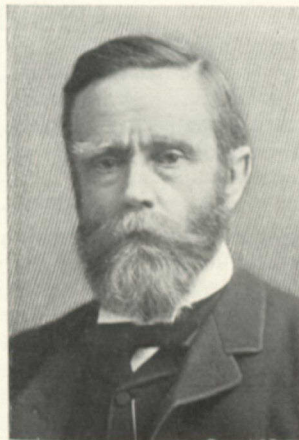


SIR WILFRID LAURIER—CANADA



SIR GORDON SPRIGG—CAPE COLONY



SIR EDMUND BARTON—AUSTRALIA



ROBERT J. SEDDON—NEW ZEALAND

FOUR COLONIAL RULERS

an acknowledgment of the resultant interdependence. This means that Canada and the other British possessions, will be more important in the Empire and in the world, that the Parliaments at Ottawa and other distant capitals will have more weight in London—it means the elevation of the British dominions beyond the seas to a place in the councils of the Empire. The conference of Colonial Premiers was the first step, the thin end of the wedge. For this immensely improved status the oversea portions of the Empire thank the far-seeing Joseph Cham-

berlain as Minister of a far-seeing King.

There was a time in the history of England when Colonies were things to tax and to exploit. Now all that has changed. The Coronation of Queen Victoria meant the beginning of the change—that of King Edward VII signified its consummation. Without a navy and without an army, or the need of either of her own, completely without the fear of the millstone of standing militarism, simply by virtue of being and remaining one of the most loyal countries in the British Empire—world-influence belongs to Canada.