

WHAT OF CANADA?

ment and to his own people; the conclusions of the War Cabinet can only be carried out by the Parliaments of the different nations of our Imperial Commonwealth. Thus, each Dominion, each nation, retains its perfect autonomy. I venture to believe and I thus expressed myself last year, that in this may be found the genesis of a development in the constitutional relation of the Empire which will form the basis of its unity in the years to come."

We cannot do better than to follow the President of the Council by quoting what General Smuts, the head of another of our British nations, said in his Parliament:

I remember when the report of our National Convention was made I made the statement that the most important thing about that document was the list of signatures at the end of it. And it is very much the same in regard to the Peace Treaty. For the first time in history the British Dominions signed a great international instrument, not only along with the other ministers of the King, but with the other ministers of the great powers of the world—and although the tremendous importance of this great act has not been fully recognized, there is no doubt that the Treaty, signed as it has been with parties to it not only representative of the King in the British Isles, but in the Dominions, forms one of the most important landmarks in the history of the British Empire.

* * * The British Dominions did not fight for status. They went to war from a sense of duty, from their common interest with the rest of the world, vindicating the great principle of self-determining government. Not only has victory been achieved for the objects for which they fought, but what for the British Dominions is equally precious, they have achieved international recognition of their status among the nations of the world. In a large sense this world is one of small nations, and certainly none of those had had larger results accruing to them from this war than the young nations of the British Empire. They have deserved this through the magnitude of their efforts. It has been proved and has never been challenged that two of the British Dominions—Canada and Australia—made a greater war effort than any other powers below the rank of first-class