

FOREIGN POLICY

DOMINION CONSULTATION

Spoken Word Imperative

(By Harry Thomson)

It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of the articles recently appearing in "The Times" and cabled exclusively to "The News" on the subject of Empire control of foreign policy, for the very existence of the Empire is bound up in the solution of the problems discussed. And on the existence of the Empire it is not too much to say depends the precise direction of the future progress, and perhaps even the actual existence of the civilized world.

The question is not a new one. More than half a century ago it was expressly brought into discussion by Disraeli. In 1873 the Colonial Office issued a despatch to the Governor-Generals of Canada, Australia, and the Cape headed "Negotiation of Treaties with Foreign Powers."

In 1907 the Foreign Office again issued instructions on the matter. But with it all no satisfactory scheme has ever been evolved and the problem has never been grappled with fearlessly. It would be impossible to discuss the matter of ensuring Dominion participation in the Empire's foreign policy in the short space of this article. But it is possible even at the risk of being dogmatic to indicate some of the basic principles that apply. They are these:—

Each Dominion is, so far as other parts of the Empire, including Great Britain, are concerned, practically independent. This is not merely matter of legal form, but actually a matter of national spirit. They are no longer "dependencies of Empire" but for everything but international relations are independent self-contained nations.

WAR DID NOT END WAR

Because of its far-flung character the Empire is always liable to wars, great or little. Europe is a cauldron, India has never been a rest-cure politically or militarily. The Pacific is almost universally "tipped" as the scene of the next great conflagration. Japan's navy is not for fishing purposes. The Marshall Islands have a greater tactical position than is necessary merely for a week-end jazz picnic. It is well to recognise these facts. The Germans had a happy phrase "Realpolitik," signifying a theory of political action based on actualities. To quote Kipling's phrase, the inhabitants of the Dominion "are neither children nor Gods, but men in a world of men." Human nature has not changed since the great war, and if it changes at all only does so very gradually. There have been many centuries of struggle and combat, and there will be many centuries more.

When the question of war or not arises—or it may be something less than war—it is of the essence of successful action to be able to decide quickly and act promptly. With modern means of offence and defence 24 hours' delay may change the political map of the world. "Thrice blest is he who gets his blow in time, was later more true than today.

PERSONAL CONTACT

To take such action sanely postulates two things on the part of the Dominions. They must be in actual consultation at the time of that decision, and because of the complexity of modern international problems they must have a pretty full knowledge of the subject matter and the previous history of the dispute to enable them to make the decision. That must mean, to take Australia as the type, Australians on the spot all the time to study and keep in touch with international developments, and an Australian of status equal to an ambassador, on the spot at the time of actually making the decision, to say for Australia "Yea" or "Nay." The writer of "The Times" articles emphasises the value of personal contact. With that I emphatically agree. Cables are hopeless. Great Britain has tried out the method all over the world—Egypt, India, all foreign nations. The written word is not the spoken. Unless one knows the speaker one cannot know properly his speech. Even in the comparatively unimportant sphere of private business we all know how business is advanced and misunderstandings avoided by personal contact. The machinery to work out all this will not be easy to formulate, but is not beyond the wit of man to devise. It cannot be discussed within the limits of this article.

That leaves only one question, but for each of us the most important. If we are to remain in the Empire, the line of development indicated above must be followed. It is the only logical course. A Dominion cannot claim a mind and status of its own and refuse to take part in a decision, or in the consultation that precedes it. It cannot claim to be grown up and refuse to shoulder the responsibilities of a grown up. Like taxation for the adult citizen, such responsibilities are inevitable.

BRITISH GIFT TO WORLD

Power and responsibility go hand in hand. Nations cannot any more than individuals claim the rights of an adult and the privileges of an infant. If an infant asserts his rights too vigorously he can be spanked or put in a corner—which is not an edifying proceeding for a young nation. The question is however settled for the Dominions, for they have claimed full national rights and the only real question that remains is—"Are they to enjoy those rights in the Empire or out of it?"

Even that is not a purely metrical question. It certainly cannot be answered by waving flags and singing "Rule Britannia." It is not a law of nature that the British Empire must always remain, nor even that it is the best thing for the world. The answer really depends on the history of the British race and on the profound belief which so many of us have that the British race—not merely Great Britain—has something to give the world that cannot be supplied elsewhere to the same extent.

There are those of us who believe that the Pax Britannica, which in the midst of its mistakes and its selfishness, does signify justice and fair play, is the greatest gift any race has ever given to the world. On that and on that alone depends the justification and the worth of the Empire. And that is too precious a possession to be risked by allowing the Empire to disintegrate merely for the want of suitable machinery to keep the parts together.

Reg 11/2/25

CHAIR OF ANTHROPOLOGY.

TASMANIAN PREMIER SYMPATHETIC.

HOBART, Tuesday.

The University of Tasmania to-day requested the Government to provide £56 a year towards expenses for the establishment of a Chair of Anthropology in one of the universities of the Commonwealth. The Premier was informed that other States were contributing, and that Tasmania's share had been put down at the sum mentioned. Mr. Lyons expressed himself in favour of the contribution, and said he would bring the matter before Cabinet.

Adv 11/2/25.

SPORT AND EDUCATION.

VALUE OF PHYSICAL TRAINING.

The remarks in Perth of Dr. M. J. Rendall, a brilliant scholar and formerly headmaster of Winchester College, as published in "The Advertiser" yesterday, attracted attention in educational circles. Dr. Rendall repudiated the prevailing notion that sport is the governing factor in the selection of Rhodes scholars. Sport and scholarship, however, he said, must go side by side. Some critics say that indulgence in sport prevents a student from excelling in intellectual attainments. Enquiries in America recently show that the contrary is the case.

To investigate the complaint that students who give a great deal of their time to athletics suffer proportionately in their studies, the executive of Princetown University has compiled some interesting figures. It found that the 67 athletes who represented her in different lines of sport last year were actually far ahead of the average undergraduates. Fifteen of them won scholarships. Not only that, but it was shown that during the hard training season for each sport the men engaged in it did their best work. This is attributed to the fact that when the athletes are in strict training their nervous systems are keyed up, their habits are regular, and their minds clear and alert. This will be news to many people who have always supposed that the heroes of the playing-fields are the dunces of the classrooms.

Adv 12/2/25

AN ADELAIDE STUDENT.

WINS HIS BLUE AT CAMBRIDGE.

LONDON, February 11.

Mr. Jack Bonnython, formerly a student of Saint Peter's College, Adelaide, and now a freshman at King's College, Cambridge, has won his lacrosse blue. He will play in the inter-University lacrosse match against Oxford on Thursday.

YOUNG WOMEN OF ADELAIDE

Enterprising Association

THRIFT, FELLOWSHIP, AND CLUBS

Adelaide's Young Women's Christian Association cannot be accused of lethargy, and the grass does not have much chance of growing under its constantly moving feet. Every year sees marked growth in its various departments, and more and more the young women and girls of our city are beginning to realise that the association is out to help them in every possible direction.

The question of thrift is a vital one in any community, and it is amazing to what a sum the weekly savings of business girls can attain. There are 2,500 girls in the Thrift Club, and in 1924 £12,000 was banked for them in weekly deposits. This is a fine result.

With a view to creating a more personal touch with the girls the association has decided this year to appoint two officials instead of one to carry on the work. The association itself makes nothing and does not desire to make anything in a monetary sense out of its Thrift Club. The club pays the expenses of the necessary printing, and is really a marvellous opportunity to extend the work of the association.

It has been an established custom to hold a world fellowship school every alternate year. The last was conducted in 1923 with 300 students enrolled. The school lasts for a week and comprises concentrated study on religious and missionary problems.

During this period the building at Hindmarsh square teems with life. Girls of 14 and upward enter into the spirit of the week with enthusiasm and from start to finish it is brought home to them that religion is not a stodgy remote thing but a reality that touches every bit of life.

This school will be opened somewhere about June, and all young women and girls will be welcome, whether they belong to the association or not.

Club Work

Much of the interest in the association centres in club work. These clubs, which embrace various activities, are an important factor in the daily life of the association. A training course for the leaders of these clubs has been found of inestimable value. It is intended this year to follow more advanced lines in training. Since this course was begun in September of last year as an experiment it has been so successful that its continuance is of vital importance. Forty-three churches joined with the association in this respect, and as a consequence clubs which were in imminent danger of dying have been given a new lease of life.

It is the aim of the Young Women's Christian Association that the churches should regard it as co-operative and not competitive in all work for the welfare of women and girls.

An event of importance this year will be the Triennial Convention of all Australian and New Zealand branches of the association to be held in Brisbane in July. Already much interest is being shown. This week definite work will begin in preparation for Adelaide's representation.

This city will have a voting strength of nine, and it is probable that the full complement of delegates will attend. The convention lasts for a week and the work, which embraces matters to be put into force for the next three years, is encroaching, important, and sometimes difficult. It is an opportunity for representatives of every association to meet and discuss problems from different viewpoints and much good invariably follows.

Membership Increases

The Adelaide association owes a debt of gratitude to the head teachers of the city primary schools for their help in furthering the work of the association. Officials have been allowed to visit the schools, and speak to the girls on the work of the association. At the end of



Miss Flora Piper, B.A.

who has been appointed secretary to the Girls' Department of the Adelaide Young Women's Christian Association.

every year the head teachers furnish lists of all the girls who are leaving school thus showing that they care what happens to their pupils after they have passed out of their hands.

Miss Mary Godlee, who has been transferred to Melbourne, will be succeeded as secretary to the girls' department by Miss Flora Piper, B.A., daughter of the Rev. E. J. Piper, of Adelaide. Miss Piper has been a member of the association for some years, but owing to her studies has had little time to devote to active work. She is at the association training school in Sydney, and will take up her duties in Adelaide at the end of February.

CANDIDA

Adv. 12/2/25

Professor McKellar Stewart, of the University of Adelaide, has been elected president of the Australasian Association of Psychology and Philosophy for 1925-6. The association holds an annual conference for the discussion of philosophical questions. It also publishes a quarterly journal. Professor McKellar Stewart will deliver his presidential address in May, 1926.