

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Yes. We have adopted it in substance, and that is great progress; but before it is sent to the Press I would like to have the opportunity of considering it.

Third Day.  
18 April 1907.

FUTURE  
CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
CONFERENCE.

CHAIRMAN: Would the words "self-governing communities of the Empire" do?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Perhaps they would; but I would like to consider the suggestion. It is worth taking twenty-four hours over it. I talked it over yesterday with a friend, and we agreed that we have passed the state when the term "Colony" could be applied to Canada, New Zealand, and Australia. I would like to have suggested the word "State," but for the fact that in Australia they call states what we call provinces, and it might lead to confusion. Perhaps one of us can make a better suggestion. I would rather sleep upon it, unless somebody else has any other suggestion to make to-day.

Mr. DEAKIN: Would this term do: "British Dominions possessing responsible government"?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: I would prefer "self-governing dominions beyond the seas."

Sir JOSEPH WARD: I am agreeable to that.

Mr. DEAKIN: We need not add "beyond the seas." "Self-governing Dominions" will do.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: If you designate all those countries that have been known up to the present time as self-governing Colonies "self-governing Dominions," we can then give out to the public that henceforth these are "self-governing Dominions," but I would like to have a single apt word which may be taken to mean "self-governing Colonies."

Mr. DEAKIN: We recognise that the "Dominion" is the senior of the "Commonwealth," and, therefore, the name "Dominion" has a claim. Again, we recognise that in His Majesty's official title the word "Dominion" is used where the word "Commonwealth" is not.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: "Dominion" is a general term which covers many words which it is not possible to define otherwise.

Mr. F. R. MOOR: Can we have the words of the resolution read as now settled?

Sir JOSEPH WARD: As long as it is understood that New Zealand is a Dominion, I do not object to the word "Dominion." We ourselves understand New Zealand is a Dominion, but I would like it understood that our country is covered by that term here.

CHAIRMAN: Shall I read the resolution through?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: For my part I would like to see it before me. The only reason why it is suggested we should finally close the discussion to-day is simply in order to give it to the Press.