

point clear. Let there be no misgiving about the question of immigration. There is a growing sentiment in my country that we should not send our nationals outside anywhere; and I may perhaps make a confession, with the permission of the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State, regarding my attitude when I was a member of the Government of India. I helped to draft the Immigration Act, and I was the president of the committee which sat to consider it. I was probably the strongest exponent of the view that there should be no immigration from India outside on any conditions whatsoever. We do not want our nation outside India to appear as a nation of coolies. We have had enough of that. There is plenty of scope for the conservation of the energy of my countrymen in my own country. We want them to rise to the full height of their stature in our own country. The Dominions therefore need have no fear on that account.

#### **Necessity of Implementing Resolution.**

I have just said that, as I felt bound in honour by the first part of the resolution, I consider—and I hope that I am not demanding anything extravagant from you—that you are also in honour bound by the second part of the resolution. I will be absolutely frank. I will exclude South Africa, because South Africa stood out. I make no appeal to South Africa on the basis of the second part of the resolution, but I will ask the other Dominion Prime Ministers what my countrymen, and what my Government, are asking in India—namely, what steps have been taken, or are proposed to be taken, to honour this three-year-old agreement? While every reasonable man must make allowances for practical difficulties in the implementing of that resolution, while I recognize the difficulties arising from local circumstances and prejudices, from the slow changes of public opinion, and from the exigencies of party politics, yet, I must tell you, the question to us is one of vital importance, and in fairness to my country I must say that she finds herself absolutely unable to acquiesce in the present position. I have therefore come to you, in the name of my Government, and in the name of the many millions of my countrymen, to make an earnest appeal, a sincere appeal, to join hands with me in devising some methods such as your statesmanship will enable you to do—methods intended to give effect to the principle of equality embodied in that resolution, the resolution of 1921. Do not for a moment think that I fail to recognize your difficulties. I have held office, and I know the difficult position of responsible Ministers. I am not blind to those difficulties, but pray let me ask you also to realize our national difficulties and my difficulties.

#### **Problem must be faced in a Spirit of Co-operation.**

I invite you to face with me in the broadest spirit of statesmanship this vital problem that Lord Peel and I have had the honour of placing before you this morning, and I claim your co-operation in devising methods of solving this problem. After a long and careful consideration I have come to the conclusion that I must place certain definite constructive suggestions for your consideration. If you, on your side, can make any better suggestions to me, if you can offer any better alternatives to me, take it from me that you will not find any one more ready than myself to accept them. I earnestly suggest that what the occasion demands is a united effort if we are to find a solution of this difficult problem—a problem which threatens at no distant date to acquire almost the character of a problem of foreign policy. I appeal to the Dominion Governments and to His Majesty's Government to take a united course.

#### **A Constructive Proposal.**

I will now tell you what my resolution or proposal is. I have reduced it to writing, and with your permission I will read it. My resolution is: Let the Dominion Governments who have an Indian population, let His Majesty's Government in areas under their direct control—such as Kenya, Uganda, Fiji, and other places where there are Indians resident—appoint committees to confer with a committee which the Government of India will send from India, in exploring the avenues how best and how soonest the principle of equality implicit in the 1921 resolution may be implemented. And, lest the course of the inquiry be prejudiced, I will couple with my proposal the request that any anti-Indian legislation which may be pending should be stayed until the report of these joint committees is available. That is my resolution. At once I propose to remove any misapprehension which may be lurking in the minds of any one who has listened to me. I do not want a central committee. Let me tell you, I want a committee appointed by each Dominion within its own borders, and I want the committee appointed by each Dominion to confer with the committee which will be appointed by the Government of India, and which will go to each Dominion. That is my appeal to the Dominions—except, of course, to South Africa—under the resolution of 1921. I make the same earnest appeal to His Majesty's Government, and especially to His Grace the Duke of Devonshire and the Colonial Office, in so far as the resolution relates to the colonies.

#### **Its Advantages.**

I will, in a few words, tell you what, in my humble judgment, are the advantages to be gained from my resolution. In the first place you gain time, and that will enable us to calm the angry passions that have arisen in India on this question. In the second place, India will be undoubtedly in a more hopeful frame of mind, and we all of us can bring all the more forces available to us to bear upon the solution of this problem. In the third place, my resolution absolutely safeguards your independence—I mean the independence of the Dominions. It places the initiative in your hands; and let me tell you, it is not merely because I am anxious that the Dominions should have that independence that I have provided that safeguard, but also because of a lurking feeling of self-interest in my mind. You have received a rich inheritance of independence, freedom, and self-government in your territories. I am still aspiring to it. I hope my aspirations will be realized very soon, and