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"What I consider to be the main advantages of remaining within the Commonwealth for both a non-Self-governing territory approaching independence and an independent territory of the British Commonwealth of Nations."

A short description of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

The British Commonwealth of Nations occupies nearly a quarter of the earth's habitable surface and constitutes peoples of many different tongues, hue, customs and cultures. To elucidate its magnitude, it is about four times the size of the United States of America. How colossal it is! But to make its area more clearly known, it is twice as large as the whole of the Union of the Soviet Republics. As a mother, she fosters over five hundred millions of peoples! One may dare to ask, "How possibly could peoples, so huge in number, with quite different customs and cultures, tongues and colour, and far away from each other, being separated by many stretches of land and seas, live in cordial unity?" This can be answered easily by any person who really belongs to this society, who knows why he is united with her and who thinks that it is meet and moreover a blessing to be a member of this International Society. It is simply because of the brotherly manner in which each reacts with another, that these peoples are able to live in unity, peace and concord. They all work towards one end. They have one aim and one set of objectives for which they work together.

This association is not only new but also unique in that none of its kind has ever existed nor in my opinion, will one exist in time to come. Her foundations have been laid upon the best and impregnable political

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ideology in the whole world- the English political ideas! In accordance with her fundamental principles, the British Commonwealth of Nations is neither an alliance, a union nor either a federation or a confederation but in lieu of all that, she is a new society in political association. She has emerged most rapidly and wonderfully during the last few decades. She is a society of both sovereign states and states still dependent upon the charities and favours of Britain. All of these act in a free and friendly co-operation with each other, collaborating for the advancement of knowledge on one hand, and for the promotion of happiness, peace and concord as well as love among all men on the other. Within her borders, all the states both dominions and colonies or to use a more polite word dependencies, work in unity and love, irrespective of quality and dignity, thus fulfilling Almighty God's greatest commandment to us - "Love ye one another."

In view of the fact that the Commonwealth is a society in which equality prevails, since she is no respecter of persons, the fact is crystal clear that she is not administered from a single centre by a single government but rather from a number of centres and by a number of governments. With this being so, the question of one supreme authority legislating for and looking after the affairs of this greatest single family on this earth, is completely out of the way and should never be expected. As she utterly abhors this, which is relations of authority and complete control, there are, as substitutes, strong relations of co-operation and consultation in all the aspects of this strenuous life. As Muir states in his book "The Commonwealth of Nations,"¹ unlike any other human society that has ever lived she is displaying herself

2
as one state and many states at the same time; one state under a single crown, with equal citizenship, a final appeal at law, offering a common front to all her envious and mischievous enemies, and providing for a common military action under a single command, in case of need; and at the same time many states, each having unrestricted control over her own destinies and each co-operating with the rest in the last resort only because she shares the same traditions and the same ideas.

Co-operation and its use within the Commonwealth.

For the purpose of co-operation, and in order that the individual members of the British Commonwealth of Nations may be made zealous well-wishers of one another, the crown symbolises a very potent unifying agent. Other co-operation preservers, which work for this same end, are pieces of politically devised machinery. These give true and very specific practical expressions to the relations that exist among these states. One of those is the system of Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences which, without much doubt, makes co-operation more stable, powerful and to be implemented in some cases. It is the most rightful element for co-operation and I think it is, not because of any prejudice, but by sheer dint of presurance and honesty of purpose. It is the cornerstone of the Commonwealth of Nations and claims its birth as far back as the coronation of King George V. One of the momentous duties ^{of the Conference,} it has to shoulder is to ~~precisely~~ establish devices which will be prevalent at all times, which will provide more and ready information which will bring closer understanding, and more than this, frequent intercourse between the parliamentarians and legislators who construct the political machineries of their respective ^{of the nation.}

states. After such meetings the members get to know themselves better, understand each other's views and learn a lot about how to tackle questions of prime importance in politics and government.

What the Commonwealth stands for: *Justitia Omnibus*.

I now turn to what I would consider to be one of the main advantages for both a state which is not independent like my dear flourishing Country the Gold Coast, which is approaching independence or dominion status with the greatest speed which has ever come to my notice, and I presume to the notice of the whole world, and an independent Country like India which attained her dominion status about a decade ago. Law and order constitute the prime, essential and decisive factors of life. I open with only a small part of the fundamental laws which any state that joins the Commonwealth benefits after her membership had been accepted fully. After their acceptance into this society, the people are thenceforth members not only of their indigenous country but also of this International community in which the basic principles of parliamentary democracy form the essential ^{COMPONENTS} components of the political machinery or machineries as the case may be. Each citizen enjoys the right to assist in electing the parliament or as called in the dependencies, the legislative assembly which makes the laws and forms the government. Anyway, there are some conditions a citizen should fulfill before claiming this privilege. He should not be underage, that is, not under twenty-one years of age, should have stayed in his constituency for about six months, has paid all the taxes and levies imposed on him and has not been convicted of any crime for the past six months, prior to the election.

One is free from arrest which in many

cases result in imprisonment, unless one violates the laws which have been sanctioned by the elected people. Even if one breaks the law one must be tried before a court of law. Each ^{state} feels that violence or violation of the laws is bad and ought to be resented, and that disputes and controversies should be settled by peaceful means; this can be done either by ^{government} debates, at the end of which votes decide the prevailing issue, or by the original way - the process of law. One can worship God as it seems expedient to him though ^{in his own way} not at the cost of other peoples, and can make comments and express ^{one's} views on ^{the} government without fear or favour. This is very important since it is one of the many constructive means of attacking tyranny and ^{despotism} ~~despotism~~. Each person gets to know and live by what is known as democracy - a government elected by the citizens to govern the citizens. Democracy means more than the right to make a cross on a ballot paper. Its efficiency and real worth can be detected easily among peoples who are not divided by fundamental disunity of purpose, and also who have been trained in the habits of self-government. Yet it can still be seen more easily ^{other} among peoples who understand each other's view-points and who before they do anything consider ^{well} the effect of their deeds upon their neighbours. Though one can do what he thinks right and fit for him, yet he is limited if what he does would harm his neighbours. Indirectly as it can be seen, everybody acts, reacts and moves about within a specific jurisdiction, crossing the boundaries of which results in a controversy with the mighty hands of the law, regardless of your eminence in the state.

Economic Help

Modernizes nations which are approaching or have approached dominion status.

I have a strong feeling which fights the idea that any state, springing newly to nationhood, still dependent or independent, that joins this greatest family would regret afterwards. Any country that finds this society too hot or too cold for her I am afraid, is a country which utterly abhors the 'give and take' business. It is high time, ^{any nation} that finds herself in such an odd, unusual situation leaves this society for good.

Within the British Commonwealth of Nations there are many devices for the promotion of the standards of living of mankind and the advancement of knowledge. The Imperial Institute disburses facilities to the component parts of the Commonwealth. Interesting as it is to know, among the activities on the very wide programme of this Institute, are such things as co-operation in technical, agricultural and mining departments as well as other departments of importance. This Institute undertakes the duty of performing detailed investigations into the problems of members of the Commonwealth and gives helpful reports and advice on the problems depending upon their findings. Though the works it undertakes are mostly distasteful it does not do them slavishly and moreover it never hesitates in giving reports, with the result that it always issues excellent reports which are beyond contradiction.

It carries out a more vivid, efficient and really reliable educational activities even more promising than the People's Educational Association in the Gold Coast. Its extensive films most of which are topical for countries like the Gold Coast, these days, raise the standards of education on one hand and knowledge on the other, so that indirectly it makes our moral standard higher. It sends out experts in the various

4

fields not only in education but also in other strategic operations to impart knowledge to the less sophisticated peoples of this small world in a wide one. Its messages in small pamphlets and in pictures found in the libraries in almost every corner of the Commonwealth are very commendable for the advancement of mankind.

→ The Commonwealth Economic Committee can give invaluable assistance to any country that stretches forth her hands for it. It is always at the disposal of the countries that need her stable and useful advice. It can increase, for example the production and prices of the Gold Coast crops which have such fluctuating prices that keep on deteriorating the economy of the country, by making excellent investigations and making reports with pieces of good advice on the problems of production and marketing in all its aspects. Also it can give useful advice on such feasible national enterprises such as the Volta River Project which may soon be started by the Gold Coast Government. Looking at it from another angle, it gives a great measure of encouragement to the members by arranging specific industrial conferences at which all the members may be present if they choose. After the end of such meetings, as always it becomes evident, both parties, that is, the states with dominion states on one hand and the dependencies on the other, gain experience and skill which apart from the help of this committee they might not be able to get except through generations of practice. In accordance with this, it acts as a source of knowledge, technique and skill in some particular field of life.

No country that joins this society will have the instinct of leaving her if only she is prepared to collaborate towards the raising of the standard and prosperity of man. Joining her is just like opening

a door between a stagnant ditch and a beautiful garden with all kinds of gracious aromas and entering the latter after one had stayed very long in the former. Even the immediate change itself is something which is revered by this new member who on her arrival becomes a full member and has a full say in the distributing of the society's dignities. She enjoys the privilege of expressing her opinions through her delegates on both controversial and non-controversial matters affecting sometimes not only this veteran society but the world in general.

Security from unlawful attacks.

In this present world in which evil is surpassing good deeds with great celerity, it is time that any nation which is either attaining or has presently attained her independence or dominion status, should safeguard herself very tightly, lest a more powerful and mischievous nation that does not care a farthing about what happens to her next neighbor may attack her. In the long run this nation will exploit her destinies until such time that all her elements are exploited. It is very unfortunate that such a calamity is existing but still nations can adapt themselves to this horrible and shocking situation by arming themselves to the teeth. The question may be asked, "How can such a country like the Gold Coast obtain complete security and live peacefully despite the threats of pernicious nations?" She can do this easily - just by joining this dynamic society which can make her ^{secure} security firm and moreover has her weapons ready for ^{any} envious, selfish, and any unsatisfied nation that tries to horrify new emerging nations with ~~her~~ deadly war inventions and superiority at arms. Such grotesque deeds would have ceased had new nations thought very carefully of their future

5
position and found firm means of checking all the loopholes in their defence. The present world is tired of this.

It is true in life that those that evidently are boasting of their superiority in inventing new methods of destroying mankind are very feeble, contemptible and few in number, comparatively. If any single community in the modern world wished to boast both of its manpower and diplomacy, it should be this society - the 'unique' British Commonwealth of Nations. But she does not boast, contrary to our expectation, of having about a quarter of both the earth's habitable surface and peoples. *Ea floreat!*

Moral, Social and Welfare problems.

15 Commonwealth She is always prepared and would undertake the trouble of dealing with the social and moral problems of any country that joins her. Britain which symbolises
15 as the legitimate mother of this society which is pregnant with felicitations, has had many generations of experience in dealing with problems of this sort. Whenever she gives her opinions on any problems relative to those, those become the prevailing and accepted opinions.

She introduces members to the material conveniences of both western civilisation, which she has inherited from the ancient Romans and Greeks and the knowledge of the classical world. She, unknowingly to most of her members, offers to them and to this unostentatious world at large, a model of what could be achieved in equal, frank and trustworthy comradeship when jealousy, natural unfounded suspicion and crying over spilt milk were utterly expelled from the surface of this earth. Britain the most altruistic country and legitimate mother of the Commonwealth of Nations may be joined by any respected nation without soiling herself.

The Commonwealth offers financial security.

When any country joins the Commonwealth of Nations she can approach her in times of financial distress. There are many countries that have received financial aid from this philanthropic society. There are times in the life of a nation during which by one way or another she falls into calamity. This situation which may result from unexpected dangers such as the country being flooded with great damage done to her or as it happened to the Gold Coast in 1939, the natural resources of the country's revenue might be choked either temporarily or permanently. If such a mishap occurs, grants are raised by the benevolent and charity societies of the British Commonwealth, to meet the costs of such calamities. This is a great privilege which no country even the richest can afford to abuse since no one except the Omnipotent Father of all nations, who made both the heaven and earth can precisely tell what tomorrow has in store for us.

Dependencies get large free grants from the British Commonwealth of Nations. The Colonial Development Corporation gives large amounts to dependencies for their development. The Colonial Development and Welfare Funds help dependencies which are approaching independence in the same way. These funds, though the pessimistic countries may say another thing, are very helpful indeed and any country that benefits from them should be very grateful and express her gratitude to the whole world.

In the case of countries with dominion status, it is still possible for them to benefit from such grants, in accordance with what the British secretary of Colonial Affairs, Mr. A. T. Lennon-Boyd said in the House of Commons in November 1956.

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New nations especially from West Africa and Africa at large,
shall always be grateful for these advantages.

Since no society on earth is very perfect, there are very minute disadvantages of being in this society; yet the magnitude of the advantages outshine them. The world would be better for us if other societies and organisations were prepared to imitate this society. May God grant that her members who at the moment are loyal should continue to be so, and that those who do not deem it expedient will change their views. May the example which she has given us of the subordination of the interests and lives of individuals to the welfare of the state be the dominating idea in our minds always.

And finally in my capacity as a future citizen of the Commonwealth of Nations, I say: May the God of our fathers foster, preserve and sanction the work that this society has taken upon herself to shoulder. *Respublica Britannia, floreat! Dominus tecum habeat!!*

signature of Headmaster.