



Balfour Declaration, 1926

Excerpt:

We proceeded to consider whether it was desirable formally to place on record a definition of the position held by the Governor-General as His Majesty's representative in the Dominions. That position, though now generally well recognised, undoubtedly represents a development from an earlier stage when the Governor-General was appointed solely on the advice of His Majesty's Ministers in London and acted also as their representative.*

In our opinion it is an essential consequence of the equality of status existing among the members of the British Commonwealth of Nations that the Governor-General of a Dominion is the representative of the Crown, holding in all essential respects the same position in relation to the administration of public affairs in the Dominion as is held by His Majesty the King in Great Britain, and that he is not the representative or agent of His Majesty's Government in Great Britain or of any Department of that Government.

Statute of Westminster, 1931

The Statute of Westminster 1931 is an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom which established legislative equality between the self-governing dominions of the British Empire and the United Kingdom, with a few residual exceptions. The Statute is of historical importance because it marked the effective legislative independence of these countries.