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INDIA, THE DOMINIONS, COLONIES, PROTECTORATES, AND DEPENDENCIES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

In the following pages the various sections of the British Empire outside the United Kingdom are arranged in alphabetical order under the divisions of the world to which they belong:—1. Europe; 2. Asia; 3. Africa; 4. America; 5. Australasia and Oceania.

The term 'Dominion' is used officially as a convenient abbreviation of the complete designation 'self-governing Dominion.' The Dominions are Australia, Canada, Newfoundland, New Zealand, and South Africa. The term 'Colony' is an abbreviation of the official designation 'Colony not possessing responsible Government,' and includes all such Colonies whether or not they possess an elective Legislature, but does not include Protectorates or Protected States. The term 'Crown Colonies' is properly applicable only to those Colonies in which the Crown retains control of legislation.

Under the recent Peace Treaties certain ex-German and ex-Turkish territories have been added to the Empire, to be administered under mandates approved by the League of Nations. These territories include Samoa, New Guinea, Mesopotamia, Palestine, and parts of the former German Colonies in Africa.

The Colonial Office is divided into four branches, the first of which, called the Dominions Department, deals with business connected with the self-governing colonies, and is linked with the secretariat of the Imperial Conference. The Second Department, called the Crown Colonies Department, deals with the administrative and political work of the Crown Colonies and Protectorates. The Third or General Department, which is also a Legal Department, deals with matters common to all Crown Colonies such as currency, banking, posts and telegraphs, education, &c. Connected with this department are standing committees to deal with promotion, railways and finance, concessions, and pensions. The fourth Department was established in March, 1921, to deal with the "Middle East" (Palestine, Mesopotamia, and probably Aden, and also questions of policy in other Arab areas within the British sphere of influence).